

**MCC
O
B
I
L
E**

pride

gay

liberation

CHRISTOPHER STREET LIBERATION DAY
JUNE 28, 1970

with banners and our smiles
we're being photographed
by tourists police and leering men
we fill their cameras
with 10,000 faces
bearing witness
to our own existence
in sunlight
from Washington Maryland
Massachusetts Pennsylvania
Connecticut Ohio
Iowa Minnesota
from Harlem and the suburbs
the universities
and the world
we are women who love women
we are men who love men
we are lesbians and homosexuals
we cannot apologize
for knowing
what others refuse to know
for affirming
what they deny
we might have been
the women and men
who watched us and waved
and made fists
and gave us victory signs
and stood there after we had passed
thinking of all they had to lose
and of how society punishes
its victims
who are all of us
in the end
but we are sisters and sisters
brother and brother
lovers and lovers
we are together
we are marching
past the crumbling old world
that leans toward us
in anguish from the pavement
our banners are sails
pulling us through the streets
where we have always been
as ghosts
now we are shouting out own words
we are a community

**P
R
I
D
E**

we are a society
we are everyone
we are inside you
remember
all you were taught to forget
we are part of the new world
photographers
grim behind precise machines
wait to record
our blood and sorrow
and revolutionaries beside them
remark
love is not political
when we stand against our pain
they say
we are not standing against anything
when we demand our total lives
they wonder
what we are demanding
cant you lie
cant you lie
they whisper as they hiss
like fire in grass
cant you lie
and get on with the real work
our line winds
into Central Park
and doubles itself
in a snakedance
to the top of a hill
we cover the Sheep Meadow
shouting
lifting our arms
we are marching into ourselves
like a body
gathering its cells
creating itself
in sunlight
we turn to look back
on the thousands behind us
it seems we will converge
until we explode
sisters and sisters
brothers and brothers
together --Fran Winant

(From OUT OF THE CLOSET
Voices of Gay Liberation)

MCC-MOBILE AIDS BUDDY PROGRAM
P.O. BOX 6084
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10060
(212) 475-5142

summer '88

**Coming
Out**

GAY

ds Grant Given

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COMING OUT ?

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The idea of a Coming Out Day has been kicked around for years, according to the June issue of The Advocate, but it was not until February 1988 at the "War Conference" held in Warrenton, VA, did gay leaders pledge to support the event.

Jean O'Leary, executive director of the National Gay Rights Advocate, and The Weekend Experience's founder, Rob Eichenberg, are the originators of the movement and who are spearheading the national drive.

Eichenberg said, "I found the biggest resistance to having gay people...out of the closet is our own personal and internalized homophobia. It is not the world out there."

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According to Shirley L. who spearheads the drive for resources, the Buddy Program is in desperate need of money and supplies. To meet the needs of PWAs the organization has to get as many resources together as possible.

"It does not look as if funding from private individuals and businesses is readily forthcoming," she said. "PWAs need help now. They can not wait a year or two years for a business or an individual to decide to donate money or other resources. They need help now."

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Church To Meet June

The Congregational meeting will be held the third Sunday in June after the evening services. Two persons will be elected to the Board. Also, plans for the direction of the Church and future activities will be discussed.

Thirty-eight people are now members of the Church. In 1987 a high of 46 members was reached; however, people moving from the area and asking that memberships be transferred and two deaths among the members reduced the high.

One of the goals the Congregation needs to adopt is to increase the membership to equal or to pass the 1987 high. Current night services have 30 to 40 person attending. Many of these people will soon be members but each present member should try to bring at least one new person into the Church. The Congregation has much to offer new people. Fellowship, love, security can be found with Church association. These are things that almost all people seek.

###

Summer RAP Schedule

The MCC RAP SESSIONS will continue through the month of June with each session devoted to the theme of Gay Liberation. Rap sessions will be:

- June 1...Homophobia
- June 8...Oppression Sickness
- June 15...Lateral Oppression
- June 22...Activism
- June 29...Liberation

The last session marks the middle of Gay Pride Week. Sessions begin at 7:30 p.m. Call 476-9142 for locations and other information.

###

HIV Group To Form

A new group for HIV-Pos persons will begin meeting in June. Many individuals in the Mobile Area have expressed an interest in the development of such a support group.

Confidentiality will be insured. The support group will deal with topics related to the HIV-Pos person's physical, social and psychological well-being.

Initially, a facilitator will lead the group but the members will be expected to select the group's format and to select the topics for discussion.

For locations and meeting times, contact Joe Smith at 344-5684 or call 476-9142.

###

Building Robbed

During the last week of May, the Buddy Program Building on Center Street was broken into. A micro-wave oven and the television set as well as supplies from the food pantry were stolen.

According to one source from NCC, the break-in is a serious set-back for the group efforts to help people. Especially damaging is the loss of the foods that were stored for needy people. With the loss of the television set the use of video tapes for training and other purposes has been seriously hampered.

An appeal has been made for anyone who would donate a TV or/and a micro-wave oven as well as food supplies so that the Deacon's Pantry can be replenished.

###

Tennis Group Gives Funds

In March the Lyons Park Tennis Association, a group of black business and professional leaders, sponsored a tennis tournament that raised \$500 for the Mobile Buddy Program.

###

AIDS VIGIL HELD

3

Members of the MCC and their friends held a 50-hour vigil as a memorial for PWAs and persons who have died from the disease. The vigil was held from Friday evening, May 27th to Monday evening, May 30th with a candle-light ceremony in Bienville Square.

The highlight of the observance was the making of five panels for the AIDS Quilt, commemorating local people who have died. The Mobile area is, and will be, represented by six panels in the national quilt. Members and friends worked all night for two days to complete the panels that were dedicated on Sunday, May 29th.

Other highlights of the vigil were workshops, panel discussions and films concerning the epidemic that has touched so deeply the community.

According to one source additional panels will be made and sent to the Names Project, or the national quilt.

###

Movie Night To Revive

The MCC wants to revive MOVIE NIGHT. For several months the Friday night event was conducted successfully by Ron and Wayne as a fund raiser for the Church. In addition, the 7 p.m. gatherings were a social outlet for many persons in the community.

Anyone who would like to host the first Friday of each month event should contact the minister or one of the Church Board members. Usually, films with a gay or lesbian theme were shown.

A theme potluck dinner usually was served, but a simpler snack, such as hot dogs and popcorn, could suffice.

###

liberation

BUDDY PROGRAM NEWS

More volunteers are needed for the Mobile Buddy Program. Fifteen persons currently are enrolled as active Buddies or who are in training for the program. The Buddies can be male or female, gay or straight. At least 20 Buddies are needed for the program to work with PWAs.

Training sessions are held the third Monday of each month at the Buddy Program Building, 1600 Center St., at 7:30 p.m. Anyone who would like to volunteer is urged to contact Shirley L. at that address or to call 476-9142.

In June the session will deal with Listening Skills. The July topic will examine Case Management and the August topic will be on the problem of Sex Addiction.

###

A breakdown of AIDS cases for Mobile shows a peak in 1987 with 35 cases of AIDS reported. (The Department of Health compiled the statistics for the Mobile Area.):

1983	1	(1)	(Numbers in parenthesis indicate
1984	3	(3)	persons who have died.)
1985	7	(7)	
1986	4	(3)	
1987	35	(21)	
1988	20	(12)	

44 persons were Caucasian; 25 were black; one was Hispanic. 59 PWAs were male and 11 were female. The average age at the time of the diagnosis was 34.9 years for males and 31.9 years for females.

The records show the risk factors as homosexual or bi--42, homosexual or IV drug user --11, IV drug user--11, blood transfers--3, heterosexual contacts--4, and undetermined--1.

###

The global total of AIDS cases recorded by the World Health Organization stood at 91,905 as of the end of May, a 4.4 percent increase during the past two weeks. Most countries have not yet updated their figures this year. The total includes 38,211 cases registered last year and covers reports from 139 countries listing one or more cases. Another 35 countries informed the Geneva-based organization that they had no cases. On April 27 the total had been 88,801 with the U.S., Brazil, Spain and Canada being the countries topping the list. (From This Week's News)

###

According to an article in the Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel during a meeting of the Ministerial Fellowship of the Palm Beach area a taped speech was played that advocated the theological position that the disease (AIDS) is not "God's punishment for the homosexual lifestyle." The tape provoked a discussion about whether people are born gay, with some ministers arguing that homosexuality is a choice and a form of sinfulness.

Rev. Tom Bigelow of the Metropolitan Community Church of West Palm Beach, argued against interpreting the Bible as condemning gay people. In response to St. Paul's condemnation of effeminate men and "abusers of self with mankind", Bigelow said: "I am a homosexual and a Christian. The word 'effeminate' in Greek means soft. That could mean morally soft. Abusers of self with mankind is a term that stands for male prostitutes." Bigelow's defense of gay Christians was echoed by a Methodist minister who found the use of St. Paul's words to condemn gay people 'offensive.' You can't categorize people into who is going to hell and who isn't. I don't buy into an absolute."

The story is noteworthy for bringing to light the fact that many Christian ministers don't buy into the Pat Robertson/Pope John Paul II line on the sinfulness of homosexuality. The fact that a minister of MCC is a member of the Ministerial fellowship and was able to make the argument on behalf of gay religious people should open some people's eyes concerning the common myths and stereotypes about gay people.

###

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AIDS UPDATES



The controversial drug for AIDS treatment, Ribavirin, has been approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration for a multicenter trial to test the drug's safety and efficacy at high dosages. The FDA action came after the National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA) filed suit against the FDA accusing the federal agency of foot-dragging on promising to research into AIDS treatments. (From This Week's News)

###

The University of South Florida researchers are finding that marijuana may have dramatically harmful effects on the body's immune system and may be a co-factor in the development of AIDS.

According to This Week's News, Dr. Herman Friedman, professor and chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at USF, said that when purified THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol)--the main psychoactive component of marijuana--is added to any of their models systems in the cells of mice, the immune response system of the mice becomes suppressed. Friedman said that it is this breakdown of the immune system that makes AIDS so deadly.

###

Alcohol may increase the dangers of unsafe sex, noted a study by Dr. Ormar Bagasra, a microbiobiologist-immunologist at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. The study suggests moderate drinking may speed the development of full-blown AIDS in people already infected but have no symptoms of the disease. Other scientists have suggested that drugs and alcohol may be co-factors required for HIV infection to occur. Bagasra and his colleagues tested disease fighting white blood cells that were grown with the HIV in laboratory glassware after being taken from the blood of six healthy heterosexual volunteers. The volunteers' blood cells were tested after they drank the equivalent of four to five beers each. They were asked to drink so that they did not get drunk. After drinking the virus grew 25 to 250 times more quickly in the blood cells and each cell contained more of the virus. Three to seven hours after the volunteers had no alcohol left in their bodies, their cells still produced small amounts of interleukin-2 and soluble immune suppressor factor, two substances necessary for proper functioning of the disease fighting immune system.

###

A recently published pamphlet called "AIDS's Effects on the Brain" gives information to caregivers and family members who have PWAs with ADC (AIDS Dementia Complex). The pamphlet which was developed by the San

More than 6,000 researchers and scientists from around the globe are expected to convene in Stockholm this month for the fourth and largest-ever international conference on AIDS.

The conference will run from June 12-16 and will include some 50 specialty workshops with emphasis on problems in developing countries. Approximately 4,000 papers will be delivered at the conference.

"After reviewing the presentations, my overall impression is a feeling of optimism," said conference Chairman Lars Olof Kallings. "It is now justified to say there is global mobilization of biomedical and social science to fight against HIV infections."

Kalling said that the most gratifying results are being achieved in the area of molecular biology.

New York Native publisher Charles Ortlieb, longtime skeptic of HIV theories as a cause of AIDS, noted in an editorial that at this conference Dr. Robert Gallo, co-founder of HIV, will get to share data with Dr. Shyh-Ching Lo. Ortlieb noted that according to the Armed Forces Institute on Pathology, Lo has been working on a DNA virus which is unlike HIV, has been able to create AIDS-like illnesses in monkeys infected with the virus. Ortlieb charged that once Lo and Gallo are able to compare data, the standing beliefs about HIV being the causal agent of AIDS may be shaken, leading to world-wide publicity of HIV skepticism. (From This Week's News)

###

In the June issue of The Advocate's Helms Report, there is some positive news about the underground drug, DEXTRAN SULFATE. This drug, long used by the underground clinics, is obtained presently from Japan. In laboratory studies it has been found to prevent HIV from damaging T-cells, one of the targets of the virus in the human body. The drug, also, blocks infected T-cells from fusing with nearby infected cells, a process believed to be a primary way in which the viral infection destroys the immune system. Finally, a separate experiment with the drug showed that it prevented, also, particles of HIV from binding to a protein on the surface of T-cells. Researchers believe that the binding may be the first step in a healthy T-cell becoming infected.

###

Francisco AIDS Health Project attempts to show the caregivers that the person with ADC is not trying to make them angry or frustrated but the person is showing a desperate need for support.

The pamphlet outlines several ways to help the ADC person. This publication can be obtained through the AIDS Health Project, Box 9884, San Francisco, CA, 94143-0884 or call (415) 476-6430.

###

6 gay voices

Representatives from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Association of Gay and Democratic Clubs and the Human Rights Campaign Fund presented testimony on May 10 at the first open hearings of the Democratic Party Platform...called on the hearing to include gay and lesbian civil rights and AIDS issues in the party platform at the 1988 convention. It is noted that the 1984 platform did include those issues, and all of this year's Democratic candidates for the Presidency have expressed support of gay and lesbian civil rights. "Today, what is smart and what is right for Democrats is to write a platform that clearly shows what the Democratic party stands for," states NAGLDC Director Christine Riddiough.

"It is vital that such a platform state...that the Democratic party is the party for social justice for all Americans, the party committed to full civil and human rights for all Americans."

NGLTF lobbyist Judy Radecic called for the inclusion of party planks in four key areas: Civil Rights, Violence, Family Issues and AIDS. Copies of Radecic's testimony are available from NGLTF, 1517 U St. N.W., Washington D.C. 20009, and copies of Riddiough's testimony are available from NAGLDC, 114 15th St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002. Both NGLTF and HRCF staffers are scheduled to present testimony at the Republican Platform Committee hearings in June. (From This Week's News)

###

Pittsburgh leaders expect the city will see its own gay and lesbian rights bill signed in to law in time for Gay and Lesbian Pride Week this June. Despite the death of Mayor Richard Caliguiri, who supported the bill, gay and lesbian local leaders feel that the bill will pass. At a recent council meeting on allegations of anti-gay police harassment, nine council members expressed support. The Council defeated a similar bill six years ago. Work on the current bill, which includes mandates for gay and lesbian sensitivity training for police agents and the collection of statistics for anti-gay crimes, began shortly after last October's March on Washington. (From the Philadelphia Gay News)

###

A commission of the United Church of Canada, the country's largest Protestant denomination, recommended accepting gays as ministers and permitting them to be married in the church. Also, it recommended accepting bisexuality and sexual activity outside of marriage as normal sexual practices. (From The Advocate)

###

Another country has headed towards recognizing gay/lesbian marriages---Denmark. More than half of that country's Parliament have co-sponsored a bill legalizing gay/lesbian marriages, assuring that the bill would pass by this summer. Foreign nationals could be married under the law provided that one of the partners is living in Denmark. (From The Advocate)

###

According to the Alabama Forum newspaper, gay and lesbian members of the Birmingham Unitarian-Universalists Church organized in March a chapter for the Birmingham area. The tenth retreat for gay and lesbian

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THE AMERICAN RED CROSS is offering AIDS EDUCATION programs for clubs, organizations and home parties. Also, films to loan and free brochures. GET THE FACTS, CALL TODAY 438-2

DIGNITY

LAUGHS?GIGGLES!

The famed 1974 gay novel, **THE FRONT RUNNER**, by Patricia Neil Warren is slated to become a movie as soon as the company can settle on a director. The love story between a coach and his star track runner is a gay classic. Her second book to make inroads on the gay circuit, **THE FANCY DANCER**, has been reissued by Plume/NAL. The paperback was released in May at \$6.95.

###

Do you like to lick them? Stamps that is. A prize-winning display of stamps depicting gay and lesbian personalities is on display at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto as part of TOPEX at STAMPEX 88. If you would like to find out more about collecting gay/lesbian stamps, contact G.L.H.S.C., care of Ed Centeno; P.O. Box 3940; Hartford, CT 06103.

###

Top of the non-fiction reading charts for summer should be Randy Shilts, **AND THE BAND PLAYED ON**, a psycho-political-economic book on the evolution of the AIDS crisis on the American scene. (St. Martin's Press: \$27)

###

Since 1985 a number of works by Gertrude Stein have been reissued. A couple of the top books for summer reading would be **EVERYBODY'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY** (Random House: \$11.95), **WALKS IN GERTRUDE STEIN'S PARIS** (Gibbs M. Smith Inc.: \$11.95), **WHAT IS REMEMBERED** by Alice B. Toklas, Stein's longtime friend and lover (North Point Press: \$9.95)

MURDER IS MURDER IS MURDER by Samuel M. Steward is a good who-dun-it by one of her longtime friends. In this mystery, Stein and Toklas solve a murder that happens near their south of France chateau. (Alyson: \$6.95)

###

THE FANCY DANCER by Patricia Neil Warren, an excellent love story between a young priest and a hunky Indian ceremonial dancer. Takes place in Montana. (Plume/NAL: \$6.95)

###

A hot but educational video tape, **TAO-YINN**, The Chinese Art of Self Massage, that shows an ancient technique of manipulating energy centers to achieve stress-free relaxation. Two more video tapes that may be worth watching are **THE MALE COUPLE** and **PARENTS COME OUT**. The first tells how to live with a spouse through interviews with various couples and the second is a document of eight parent couples and their struggle to understand and to accept their gay and lesbian children. All of the above video tapes from Malibu Sales.

###



A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN
TO HELP
PEOPLE WITH AIDS

Stamp Out AIDS raises money through the sale of stamps similar to Easter Seals. Proceeds go to the MOBILE AIDS BUDDY PROGRAM to provide direct care, medication, food and other vital services to people living with AIDS.

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OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS.....
GIVE TODAY TO STAMP OUT AIDS. GIVE NOW.

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P.O. Box 6068
Mobile, AL 36660

Please send me _____ self(s) of "STAMP OUT AIDS"
stamps at \$1 per set of 6. Enclosed please find
\$ _____ plus a self-addressed
stamped envelope.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

If paying by check, make payable to:
"STAMP OUT AIDS"

Contributions are tax deductible as provided by law

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See Chip, Mobile Buddy Program
Team leader,

SUPPORT YOUR FRIENDS AND CHILDREN WITH AN
AIDS BUDDY TEE SHIRT
.....DO IT TODAY.....

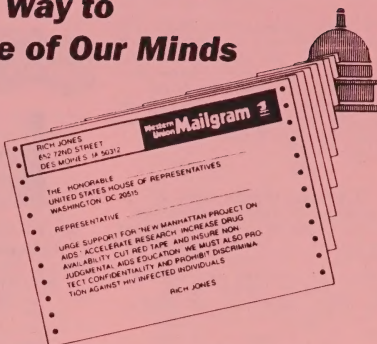
7

Finally, Here's an Easy Way to Give 'em a Piece of Our Minds

The Fairness Fund's Public Opinion Mailgram campaign now gives us an easy way to make our voices heard on Capitol Hill on the issues we care about. A POM is a 50-word mailgram that costs just \$4.50 each (the same 50-word message would cost almost 3 times as much outside this system). They are charged to your telephone bill. You don't even have to know who your legislator is—that'll be taken care of for you.

Too often, there just doesn't seem like there's time to write a letter. And sometimes you're just not sure what to say or when to write. Now, by signing one of our Public Opinion Mailgram authorization forms, or by calling the 800 number we have established, you can ensure that your voice will be heard in a timely, articulate fashion.

And, because the Fairness Fund works in close cooperation and with the support of the Human Rights Campaign Fund and other national gay/lesbian groups, your mailgram will reflect



our community's current lobbying strategy and priorities.

Won't you take just a minute, right now, to make a difference. Let's prove that we really do care.

The National Mailgram Campaign

Public Opinion Mailgram Authorization for Fairness and Privacy

Please print

Last Name, First Name _____ Telephone Number _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I support fairness and privacy for lesbians and gay men and adequate AIDS funding and therefore authorize the Fairness Fund to use my name to send _____ (2-12 or unlimited) Public Opinion Mailgrams (50 words) during the next year at a cost of just \$4.50 each. (The mailgrams will be charged to the phone number authorized. CANCEL AT ANY TIME.) The mailgrams will be sent to elected officials (at all levels) at critical times on the general categories of increased AIDS funding, defeat of AIDS hysteria measures, and support for justice for gay men and lesbians.

Signature _____

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JUNE 28, 1970

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we're being photographed
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we fill their cameras
with 10,000 faces
bearing witness
to our own existence
in sunlight
from Washington Maryland
Massachusetts Pennsylvania
Connecticut Ohio
Iowa Minnesota
from Harlem and the suburbs
the universities
and the world
we are women who love women
we are men who love men
we are lesbians and homosexuals
we cannot apologize
for knowing
what others refuse to know
for affirming
what they deny
we might have been
the women and men
who watched us and waved
and made fists
and gave us victory signs
and stood there after we had passed
thinking of all they had to lose
and of how society punishes
its victims
who are all of us
in the end
but we are sisters and sisters
brother and brother
workers and lovers
we are together
we are marching
past the crumbling old world
that leans toward us
in anguish from the pavement
our banners are sails
pulling us through the streets
where we have always been
as ghosts
now we are shouting out own words
we are a community

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we are a society
we are everyone
we are inside you
remember
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we are part of the new world
photographers
grim behind precise machines
wait to record
our blood and sorrow
and revolutionaries beside them
remark
love is not political
when we stand against our pain
they say
we are not standing against anything
when we demand our total lives
they wonder
what we are demanding
cant you lie
cant you lie
they whisper as they hiss
like fire in grass
cant you lie
and get on with the real work
our line winds
into Central Park
and doubles itself
in a snakesdance
to the top of a hill
we cover the Sheep Meadow
shouting
lifting our arms
we are marching into ourselves
like a body
gathering its cells
creating itself
in sunlight
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on the thousands behind us
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liberation

BUDDY PROGRAM NEWS

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Training sessions are held the third Monday of each month at the Buddy Program Building, 1600 Center St., at 7:30 p.m. Anyone who would like to volunteer is urged to contact Shirley L. at that address or to call 476-9142.

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44 persons were Caucasian; 25 were black; one was Hispanic. 59 PWAs were male and 11 were female. The average age at the time of the diagnosis was 34.9 years for males and 31.9 years for females.

The records show the risk factors as homosexual or bi--42, homosexual or IV drug user--11, IV drug user--11, blood transfers--3, heterosexual contacts--4, and undetermined--1.

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The global total of AIDS cases recorded by the World Health Organization stood at 91,905 as of the end of May, a 4.4 percent increase during the past two weeks. Most countries have not yet updated their figures this year. The total includes 38,211 cases registered last year and covers reports from 139 countries listing one or more cases. Another 35 countries informed the Geneva-based organization that they had no cases. On April 27 the total had been 88,801 with the U.S., Brazil, Spain and Canada being the countries topping the list. (From This Week's News)

###

According to an article in the Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel during a meeting of the Ministerial Fellowship of the Palm Beach area a taped speech was played that advocated the theological position that the disease (AIDS) is not "God's punishment for the homosexual lifestyle." The tape provoked a discussion about whether people are born gay, with some ministers arguing that homosexuality is a choice and a form of sinfulness.

Rev. Tom Bigelow of the Metropolitan Community Church of West Palm Beach, argued against interpreting the Bible as condemning gay people. In response to St. Paul's condemnation of effeminate men and "abusers of self with mankind", Bigelow said: "I am a homosexual and a Christian. The word 'effeminate' in Greek means soft. That could mean morally soft. Abusers of self with mankind is a term that stands for male prostitutes." Bigelow's defense of gay Christians was echoed by a Methodist minister who found the use of St. Paul's words to condemn gay people "offensive." You can't categorize people into who is going to hell and who isn't. I don't buy into an absolute."

The story is noteworthy for bringing to light the fact that many Christian ministers don't buy into the Pat Robertson/Pope John Paul II line on the sinfulness of homosexuality. The fact that a minister of MCC is a member of the Ministerial fellowship and was able to make the argument on behalf of gay religious people should open some people's eyes concerning the common myths and stereotypes about gay people.

###

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AIDS UPDATES

The controversial drug for AIDS treatment, Ribavirin, has been approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration for a multicenter trial to test the drug's safety and efficacy at high dosages. The FDA action came after the National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA) filed suit against the FDA accusing the federal agency of foot-dragging on promising to research into AIDS treatments. (From This Week's News)

###

The University of South Florida researchers are finding that marijuana may have dramatically harmful effects on the body's immune system and may be a co-factor in the development of AIDS.

According to This Week's News, Dr. Herman Friedman, professor and chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at USF, said that when purified THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol)--the main psychoactive component of marijuana--is added to any of their models systems in the cells of mice, the immune response system of the mice becomes suppressed. Friedman said that it is this breakdown of the immune system that makes AIDS so deadly.

###

Alcohol may increase the dangers of unsafe sex, noted a study by Dr. Ormar Bagasra, a microbiobiologist-immunologist at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. The study suggests moderate drinking may speed the development of full-blown AIDS in people already infected but have no symptoms of the disease. Other scientists have suggested that drugs and alcohol may be co-factors required for HIV infection to occur. Bagasra and his colleagues tested disease-fighting white blood cells that were grown with the HIV in laboratory glassware after being taken from the blood of six healthy heterosexual volunteers. The volunteers' blood cells were tested after they drank the equivalent of four to five beers each. They were asked to drink so that they did not get drunk. After drinking the virus grew 25 to 250 times more quickly in the blood cells and each cell contained more of the virus. Three to seven hours after the volunteers had no alcohol left in their bodies, their cells still produced small amounts of interleukin-2 and soluble immune suppressor factor, two substances necessary for proper functioning of the disease fighting immune system.

###

A recently published pamphlet called "AIDS's Effects on the Brain" gives information to caregivers and family members who have PWAs with ADC (AIDS Dementia Complex). The pamphlet which was developed by the San

More than 6,000 researchers and scientists from around the globe are expected to convene in Stockholm this month for the fourth and largest-ever international conference on AIDS.

The conference will run from June 12-16 and will include some 50 specialty workshops with emphasis on problems in developing countries. Approximately 4,000 papers will be delivered at the conference.

"After reviewing the presentations, my overall impression is a feeling of optimism," said conference Chairman Lars Olof Kallings. "It is now justified to say there is global mobilization of biomedical and social science to fight against HIV infections."

Kallings said that the most gratifying results are being achieved in the area of molecular biology.

New York Native publisher Charles Ortlieb, longtime skeptic of HIV theories as a cause of AIDS, noted in an editorial that at this conference Dr. Robert Gallo, co-founder of HIV, will get to share data with Dr. Shyh-Ching Lo. Ortlieb noted that according to the Armed Forces Institute on Pathology, Lo has been working on a DNA virus which is unlike HIV, has been able to create AIDS-like illnesses in monkeys infected with the virus. Ortlieb charged that once Lo and Gallo are able to compare data, the standing beliefs about HIV being the causal agent of AIDS may be shaken, leading to world-wide publicity of HIV skepticism. (From This Week's News)

###

In the June issue of The Advocate's Helms Report, there is some positive news about the underground drug, DEXTRAN SULFATE. This drug, long used by the underground clinics, is obtained presently from Japan. In laboratory studies it has been found to prevent HIV from damaging T-cells, one of the targets of the virus in the human body. The drug, also, blocks infected T-cells from fusing with nearby infected cells, a process believed to be a primary way in which the viral infection destroys the immune system. Finally, a separate experiment with the drug showed that it prevented, also, particles of HIV from binding to a protein on the surface of T-cells. Researchers believe that the binding may be the first step in a healthy T-cell becoming infected.

###

Francisco AIDS Health Project attempts to show the caregivers that the person with ADC is not trying to make them angry or frustrated but the person is showing a desperate need for support.

The pamphlet outlines several ways to help the ADC person. This publication can be obtained through the AIDS Health Project, Box 9884, San Francisco, CA, 94143-0884 or call (415) 476-6430.

###

6 gay voices

Representatives from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Association of Gay and Democratic Clubs and the Human Rights Campaign Fund presented testimony on May 10 at the first open hearings of the Democratic Party Platform...called on the hearing to include gay and lesbian civil rights and AIDS issues in the party platform at the 1988 convention. It is noted that the 1984 platform did include those issues, and all of this year's Democratic candidates for the Presidency have expressed support of gay and lesbian civil rights. "Today, what is smart and what is right for Democrats is to write a platform that clearly shows what the Democratic party stands for," states NAGLDC Director Christine Riddiough.

"It is vital that such a platform state...that the Democratic party is the party for social justice for all Americans, the party committed to full civil and human rights for all Americans."

NGLTF lobbyist Judy Radecic called for the inclusion of party planks in four key areas: Civil Rights, Violence, Family Issues and AIDS. Copies of Radecic's testimony are available from NGLTF, 1517 U St. N.W., Washington D.C. 20009, and copies of Riddiough's testimony are available from NAGLDC, 114 15th St. N.E. Washington, D.C. 20002. Both NGLTF and HRCF staffers are scheduled to present testimony at the Republican Platform Committee hearings in June. (From This Week's News)

###

Pittsburgh leaders expect the city will see its own gay and lesbian rights bill signed in -to law in time for Gay and Lesbian Pride Week this June. Despite the death of Mayor Richard Caliguiri, who supported the bill, gay and lesbian local leaders feel that the bill will pass. At a recent council meeting on allegations of anti-gay police harassment, nine council members expressed support. The Council defeated a similar bill six years ago. Work on the current bill, which includes mandates for gay and lesbian sensitivity training for police agents and the collection of statistics for anti-gay crimes, began shortly after last October's March on Washington. (From the Philadelphia Gay News)

###

A commission of the United Church of Canada, the country's largest Protestant denomination, recommended accepting gays as ministers and permitting them to be married in the church. Also, it recommended accepting bisexuality and sexual activity outside of marriage as normal sexual practices. (From The Advocate)

###

Another country has headed towards recognizing gay/lesbian marriages----Denmark. More than half of that country's Parliament have co-sponsored a bill legalizing gay/lesbian marriages, assuring that the bill would pass by this summer. Foreign nationals could be married under the law provided that one of the partners is living in Denmark. (From The Advocate)

###

According to the Alabama Forum newspaper, gay and lesbian members of the Birmingham Unitarian-Universalists Church organized in March a chapter for the Birmingham area. The tenth retreat for gay and lesbian

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DIGNITY

LAUGHS?GIGGLES!

The famed 1974 gay novel, **THE FRONT RUNNER**, by Patricia Neil Warren is slated to become a movie as soon as the company can settle on a director. The love story between a coach and his star track runner is a gay classic. Her second book to make inroads on the gay circuit, **THE FANCY DANCER**, has been reissued by Plume/NAL. The paperback was released in May at \$6.95.

###

Do you like to lick them? Stamps that is. A prize-winning display of stamps depicting gay and lesbian personalities is on display at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto as part of TOPEX at STAMPEx 88. If you would like to find out more about collecting gay/lesbian stamps, contact G.L.H.S.C., care of Ed Cenento; P.O. Box 3940; Hartford, CT 06103.

###

Top of the non-fiction reading charts for summer should be Randy Shilts, **AND THE BAND PLAYED ON**, a psycho-political-economic book on the evolution of the AIDS crisis on the American scene. (St. Martin's Press: \$27)

###

Since 1985 a number of works by Gertrude Stein have been reissued. A couple of the top books for summer reading would be **EVERYBODY'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY** (Random House: \$11.95), **WALKS IN GERTRUDE STEIN'S PARIS** (Gibbs M. Smith Inc.: \$11.95), **WHAT IS REMEMBERED** by Alice B. Toklas, Stein's longtime friend and lover (North Point Press: \$9.95)

MURDER IS MURDER IS MURDER by Samuel M. Steward is a good who-dun-it by one of her longtime friends. In this mystery, Stein and Toklas solve a murder that happens near their south of France chateau. (Alyson: \$6.95)

###

THE FANCY DANCER by Patricia Neil Warren, an excellent love story between a young priest and a hunky Indian ceremonial dancer. Takes place in Montana. (Plume/NAL: \$6.95)

###

A hot but educational video tape, **TAO-YINN**. The Chinese Art of Self Massage, that shows an ancient technique of manipulating energy centers to achieve stress-free relaxation. Two more video tapes that may be worth watching are **THE MALE COUPLE** and **PARENTS COME OUT**. The first tells how to live with a spouse through interviews with various couples and the second is a document of eight parent couples and their struggle to understand and to accept their gay and lesbian children. All of the above video tapes from Malibu Sales.

###

STAMP

AIDS

A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN
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Stamp Out AIDS raises money through the sale of stamps similar to Easter Seals. Proceeds go to the MOBILE AIDS BUDDY PROGRAM to provide direct care, medication, food and other vital services to people living with AIDS.

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OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS.....
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stamps at \$1 per set of 6. Enclosed please find
\$ _____, plus a self-addressed
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If paying by check, make payable to:
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See Chip, Mobile Buddy Program
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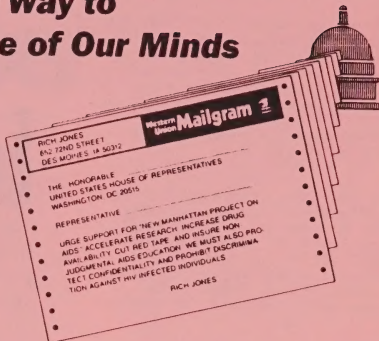
7

Finally, Here's an Easy Way to Give 'em a Piece of Our Minds

The Fairness Fund's Public Opinion Mailgram campaign now gives us an easy way to make our voices heard on Capitol Hill on the issues we care about. A POM is a 50-word mailgram that costs just \$4.50 each (the same 50-word message would cost almost 3 times as much outside this system). They are charged to your telephone bill. You don't even have to know who your legislator is—that'll be taken care of for you.

Too often, there just doesn't seem like there's time to write a letter. And sometimes you're just not sure what to say or when to write. Now, by signing one of our Public Opinion Mailgram authorization forms, or by calling the 800 number we have established, you can ensure that your voice will be heard in a timely, articulate fashion.

And, because the Fairness Fund works in close cooperation and with the support of the Human Rights Campaign Fund and other national gay/lesbian groups, your mailgram will reflect



our community's current lobbying strategy and priorities.

Now you take just a minute, right now, to make a difference. Let's prove that we really do care.

The National Mailgram Campaign

Public Opinion Mailgram Authorization for Fairness and Privacy

Please print

Last Name, First Name

Telephone Number

Address

City

State

Zip

I support fairness and privacy for lesbians and gay men and adequate AIDS funding and therefore authorize the Fairness Fund to use my name to send _____ (2-12 or unlimited) Public Opinion Mailgrams (50 words) during the next year at a cost of just \$4.50 each. (The mailgrams will be charged to the phone number authorized. CANCEL AT ANY TIME.) The mailgrams will be sent to elected officials (at all levels) at critical times on the general categories of increased AIDS funding, defeat of AIDS hysteria measures, and support for justice for gay men and lesbians.

Signature

The Fairness Fund, PO Box 1723, Washington, DC 20013

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Sale by Owner: 3 bedroom home near Municipal Park. Just remodeled. Large family room w/ stone fireplace; 5 ceiling fans and fenced backyard. \$41,000. Owner may finance. Call Chip, 432-5027.

Personals:

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JUNE 28, 1970

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with banners and our smiles
we're being photographed
by tourists police and leering men
we fill their cameras
with 10,000 faces
bearing witness
to our own existence
in sunlight
from Washington Maryland
Massachusetts Pennsylvania
Connecticut Ohio
Iowa Minnesota
from Harlem and the suburbs
the universities
and the world
we are women who love women
we are men who love men
we are lesbians and homosexuals
we cannot apologize
for knowing
what others refuse to know
for affirming
what they deny
we might have been
the women and men
who watched us and waved
and made fists
and gave us victory signs
and stood there after we had passed
thinking of all they had to lose
and of how society punishes
its victims
who are all of us
in the end
but we are sisters and sisters
brother and brother
workers and lovers
we are together
we are marching
past the crumbling old world
that leans toward us
in anguish toward us
our banners are sails
pulling us through the streets
where we have always been
as ghosts
now we are shouting out own words
we are a community

we are a society
we are everyone
we are inside you
remember
all you were taught to forget
we are part of the new world
photographers
grim behind precise machines
wait to record
our blood and sorrow
and revolutionaries beside them
remark
love is not political
when we stand against our pain
they say
we are not standing against anything
when we demand our total lives
they wonder
what we are demanding
cant you lie
cant you lie
they whisper as they hiss
like fire in grass
cant you lie
and get on with the real work
our line winds
into Central Park
and doubles itself
in a snakedance
to the top of a hill
we cover the Sheep Meadow
shouting
lifting our arms
we are marching into ourselves
like a body
gathering its cells
creating itself
in sunlight
we turn to look back
on the thousands behind us
it seems we will converge
until we explode
sisters and sisters
brothers and brothers
together --Fran Winant

(From OUT OF THE CLOSET
Voices of Gay Liberation)

MCC-MOBILE AIDS BUDDY PROGRAM
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(205) 476-9142

summer '88

Coming
Out

GAY

Aids Grant Given

In May, the Metropolitan Community Church received a \$2500 grant from the State Department of Health to assist in the publication of a Buddy Program booklet for PWAs and for others involved with the fight against the AIDS crisis. The 60-plus page booklet will deal with the social-psychological issues of AIDS.

An October publication date has been set. Sections in the booklet will deal with stress management, nutrition, prevention, home nursing tips, resources for PWAs and their families.

According to the Program coordinator, Shirley L., the 500 edition booklet will be placed with social and health agencies and with various physicians. It will be available to PWAs and their families.

###

In cooperation with MCC members, the Buddy Program volunteers wrote four additional grant applications. These were for the Chicago Resources Grant, the National Council of Mayors Grant and the Robert Wood Johnson Grant, each carrying a \$10 thousand stipend. The fourth grant with a \$5 thousand award is the March on Washington Grant.

COMING OUT ?

Coming out? You bet! October 11 of this year has been set aside as a National Coming Out Day on which organizers hope that hundreds of thousands of gay/lesbian people will join together in declaring their orientation and demanding their rights.

The idea of a Coming Out Day has been kicked around for years, according to the June issue of The Advocate, but it was not until February 1988 at the "War Conference" held in Warrenton, VA, did gay leaders pledge to support the event.

Jean O'Leary, executive director of the National Gay Rights Advocate, and The Weekend Experience's founder, Rob Eichenberg, are the originators of the movement and who are spearheading the national drive.

Eichenberg said, "I found the biggest resistance to having gay people...out of the closet is our own personal and internalized homophobia. It is not the world out there."

###

According to Shirley L. who spearheads the drive for resources, the Buddy Program is in desperate need of money and supplies. To meet the needs of PWAs the organization has to get as many resources together as possible.

"It does not look as if funding from private individuals and businesses is readily forthcoming," she said. "PWAs need help now. They can not wait a year or two years for a business or an individual to decide to donate money or other resources. They need help now."

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###

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AIDS UPDATES

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The conference will run from June 12-16 and will include some 50 specialty workshops with emphasis on problems in developing countries. Approximately 4,000 papers will be delivered at the conference.

"After reviewing the presentations, my overall impression is a feeling of optimism," said conference Chairman Lars Olof Kallings. "It is now justified to say there is global mobilization of biomedical and social science to fight against HIV infections."

Kallings said that the most gratifying results are being achieved in the area of molecular biology.

New York Native publisher Charles Ortlieb, longtime skeptic of HIV theories as a cause of AIDS, noted in an editorial that at this conference Dr. Robert Gallo, co-founder of HIV, will get to share data with Dr. Shyh-Ching Lo. Ortlieb noted that according to the Armed Forces Institute on Pathology, Lo has been working on a DNA virus which is unlike HIV, has been able to create AIDS-like illnesses in monkeys infected with the virus. Ortlieb charged that once Lo and Gallo are able to compare data, the standing beliefs about HIV being the causal agent of AIDS may be shaken, leading to world-wide publicity of HIV skepticism. (From This Week's News)

###

In the June issue of The Advocate's Helms Report, there is some positive news about the underground drug, DEXTRAN SULFATE. This drug, long used by the underground clinics, is obtained presently from Japan. In laboratory studies it has been found to prevent HIV from damaging T-cells, one of the targets of the virus in the human body. The drug, also, blocks infected T-cells from fusing with nearby infected cells, a process believed to be a primary way in which the viral infection destroys the immune system. Finally, a separate experiment with the drug showed that it prevented, also, particles of HIV from binding to a protein on the surface of T-cells. Researchers believe that the binding may be the first step in a healthy T-cell becoming infected.

###

Francisco AIDS Health Project attempts to show the caregivers that the person with ADC is not trying to make them angry or frustrated but the person is showing a desperate need for support.

The pamphlet outlines several ways to help the ADC person. This publication can be obtained through the AIDS Health Project, Box 9884, San Francisco, CA, 94143-0884 or call (415) 476-6430.

###

6 gay voices

Representatives from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Association of Gay and Democratic Clubs and the Human Rights Campaign Fund presented testimony on May 10 at the first open hearings of the Democratic Party Platform...called on the hearing to include gay and lesbian civil rights and AIDS issues in the party platform at the 1988 convention. It is noted that the 1984 platform did include those issues, and all of this year's Democratic candidates for the Presidency have expressed support of gay and lesbian civil rights. "Today, what is smart and what is right for Democrats is to write a platform that clearly shows that the Democratic party stands for," states NAGLDC Director Christine Riddiough.

"It is vital that such a platform state...that the Democratic party is the party for social justice for all Americans, the party committed to full civil and human rights for all Americans."

NGLTF lobbyist Judy Radecic called for the inclusion of party planks in four key areas: Civil Rights, Violence, Family Issues and AIDS. Copies of Radecic's testimony are available from NGLTF, 1517 U St., N.W., Washington D.C. 20009, and copies of Riddiough's testimony are available from NAGLDC, 114 15th St., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002. Both NGKTF and HRCF staffers are scheduled to present testimony at the Republican Platform Committee hearings in June. (From This Week's News)

###

Pittsburgh leaders expect the city will see its own gay and lesbian rights bill signed in to law in time for Gay and Lesbian Pride Week this June. Despite the death of Mayor Richard Caliguiri, who supported the bill, gay and lesbian local leaders feel that the bill will pass. At a recent council meeting on allegations of anti-gay police harassment, nine council members expressed support. The Council defeated a similar bill six years ago. Work on the current bill, which includes mandates for gay and lesbian sensitivity training for police agents and the collection of statistics for anti-gay crimes, began shortly after last October's March on Washington. (From the Philadelphia Gay News)

###

A commission of the United Church of Canada, the country's largest Protestant denomination, recommended accepting gays as ministers and permitting them to be married in the church. Also, it recommended accepting bisexuality and sexual activity outside of marriage as normal sexual practices. (From The Advocate)

###

Another country has headed towards recognizing gay/lesbian marriages----Denmark. More than half of that country's Parliament have co-sponsored a bill legalizing gay/lesbian marriages, assuring that the bill would pass by this summer. Foreign nationals could be married under the law provided that one of the partners is living in Denmark. (From The Advocate)

###

According to the Alabama Forum newspaper, gay and lesbian members of the Birmingham Unitarian-Universalists Church organized in March a chapter for the Birmingham area. The tenth retreat for gay and lesbian

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THE AMERICAN RED CROSS is offering AIDS EDUCATION programs for clubs, organizations and home parties. Also, films to loan and free brochures. GET THE FACTS, CALL TODAY 438-25

DIGNITY

LAUGHS?GIGGLES!

The famed 1974 gay novel, THE FRONT RUNNER, by Patricia Neil Warren is slated to become a movie as soon as the company can settle on a director. The love story between a coach and his star track runner is a gay classic. Her second book to make inroads on the gay circuit, THE FANCY DANCER, has been reissued by Plume/NAL. The paperback was released in May at \$6.95.

###

Do you like to lick them? Stamps that is. A prize-winning display of stamps depicting gay and lesbian personalities is on display at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto as part of TOPEX at STAMPEX 88. If you would like to find out more about collecting gay/lesbian stamps, contact G.L.H.S.C., care of Ed Centeno; P.O. Box 3940; Hartford, CT 06103.

###

Top of the non-fiction reading charts for summer should be Randy Shilts, AND THE BAND PLAYED ON, a psycho-political-economic book on the evolution of the AIDS crisis on the American scene. (St. Martin's Press: \$27)

###

Since 1985 a number of works by Gertrude Stein have been reissued. A couple of the top books for summer reading would be EVERYBODY'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY (Random House: \$11.95), WALKS IN GERTRUDE STEIN'S PARIS (Gibbs M. Smith Inc.: \$11.95), WHAT IS REMEMBERED by Alice B. Toklas, Stein's longtime friend and lover (North Point Press: \$9.95)

MURDER IS MURDER IS MURDER by Samuel M. Steward is a good who-dun-it by one of her longtime friends. In this mystery, Stein and Toklas solve a murder that happens near their south of France chateau. (Alyson: \$6.95)

###

THE FANCY DANCER by Patricia Neil Warren, an excellent love story between a young priest and a hunky Indian ceremonial dancer. Takes place in Montana. (Plume/NAL: \$6.95)

###

A hot but educational video tape, TAO-YINN. The Chinese Art of Self Massage, that shows an ancient technique of manipulating energy centers to achieve stree-free relaxation. Two more video tapes that may be worth watching are THE MALE COUPLE and PARENTS COME OUT. The first tells how to live with a spouse through interviews with various couples and the second is a document of eight parent couples and their struggle to understand and to accept their gay and lesbian children. All of the above video tapes from Malibu Sales.

###

STAMP

AIDS

A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN
TO HELP
PEOPLE WITH AIDS

Stamp Out AIDS raises money through the sale of stamps similar to Easter Seals. Proceeds go to the MOBILE AIDS BUDDY PROGRAM to provide direct care, medication, food and other vital services to

people living with AIDS.
.....PLEASE HELP TO MAINTAIN THE DIGNITY
OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS.....
GIVE TODAY TO STAMP OUT AIDS. GIVE NOW.

Stamp Out AIDS
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Please send me _____ set(s) of "STAMP OUT AIDS"
stamps at \$1 per set of 6. Enclosed please find
\$ _____, plus a self-addressed
stamped envelope.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

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If paying by check, make payable to:
"STAMP OUT AIDS"

Contributions are tax deductible as provided by law

.....BUY AN AIDS BUDDY TEE SHIRT....NOW.....

See Chip, Mobile Buddy Program
Team leader,

SUPPORT YOUR FRIENDS AND CHILDREN WITH AN
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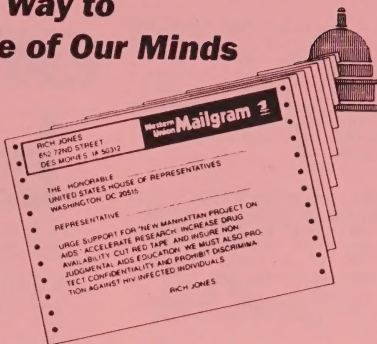
7

Finally, Here's an Easy Way to Give 'em a Piece of Our Minds

The Fairness Fund's Public Opinion Mailgram campaign now gives us an easy way to make our voices heard on Capitol Hill on the issues we care about. A POM is a 50-word mailgram that costs just \$4.50 each (the same 50-word message would cost almost 3 times as much outside this system). They are charged to your telephone bill. You don't even have to know who your legislator is—that'll be taken care of for you.

Too often, there just doesn't seem like there's time to write a letter. And sometimes you're just not sure what to say or when to write. Now, by signing one of our Public Opinion Mailgram authorization forms, or by calling the 800 number we have established, you can ensure that your voice will be heard in a timely, articulate fashion.

And, because the Fairness Fund works in close cooperation and with the support of the Human Rights Campaign Fund and other national gay/lesbian groups, your mailgram will reflect



our community's current lobbying strategy and priorities.

Won't you take just a minute, right now, to make a difference. Let's prove that we really do care.

The National Mailgram Campaign

Public Opinion Mailgram Authorization for Fairness and Privacy

Please print

Last Name, First Name

Telephone Number

Address

City

State

Zip

I support fairness and privacy for lesbians and gay men and adequate AIDS funding and therefore authorize the Fairness Fund to use my name to send _____ (2-12 or unlimited) Public Opinion Mailgrams (50 words) during the next year at a cost of just \$4.50 each. (The mailgrams will be charged to the phone number authorized. CANCEL AT ANY TIME.) The mailgrams will be sent to elected officials (at all levels) at critical times on the general categories of: increased AIDS funding, defeat of AIDS hysteria measures, and support for justice for gay men and lesbians.

Signature

The Fairness Fund, P.O. Box 1723, Washington, DC 20013

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Sale by Owner: 3 bedroom home near Municipal Park. Just remodeled. Large family room w/ stone fireplace; 5 ceiling fans and fenced backyard. \$41,000. Owner may finance. Call Chip, 432-5027

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JUNE 28, 1970

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we're being photographed
by tourists police and leering men
we fill their cameras
with 10,000 faces
bearing witness
to our own existence
in sunlight
from Washington Maryland
Massachusetts Pennsylvania
Connecticut Ohio
Iowa Minnesota
from Harlem and the suburbs
the universities
and the world
we are women who love women
we are men who love men
we are lesbians and homosexuals
we cannot apologize
for knowing
what others refuse to know
for affirming
what they deny
we might have been
the women and men
who watched us and waved
and made fists
and gave us victory signs
and stood there after we had passed
thinking of all they had to lose
and of how society punishes
its victims
who are all of us
in the end
but we are sisters and sisters
brother and brother
workers and lovers
we are together
we are marching
past the crumbling old world
that leans toward us
in anguish from the pavement
our banners are sails
pulling us through the streets
where we have always been
as ghosts
now we are shouting out own words
we are a community

P
R
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we are a society
we are everyone
we are inside you
remember
all you were taught to forget
we are part of the new world
photographers
grim behind precise machines
wait to record
our blood and sorrow
and revolutionaries beside them
remark
love is not political
when we stand against our pain
they say
we are not standing against anything
when we demand our total lives
they wonder
what we are demanding
cant you lie
cant you lie
they whisper as they hiss
like fire in grass
cant you lie
and get on with the real work
our line winds
into Central Park
and doubles itself
in a snakelance
to the top of a hill
we cover the Sheep Meadow
shouting
lifting our arms
we are marching into ourselves
like a body
gathering its cells
creating itself
in sunlight
we turn to look back
on the thousands behind us
it seems we will converge
until we explode
sisters and sisters
brothers and brothers
together --Fran Winant

(From OUT OF THE CLOSET
Voices of Gay Liberation)

MCC-MOBILE AIDS BUDDY PROGRAM
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(205) 476-9442

summer '88

Coming
Out

GAY

ds Grant Given

In May, the Metropolitan Community Church received a \$2500 grant from the State Department of Health to assist in the publication of a Buddy Program booklet for PWAs and for others involved with the fight against the AIDS crisis. The 60-plus page booklet will deal with the social-psychological issues of AIDS.

An October publication date has been set. Included in the booklet will deal with stress management, nutrition, prevention, home nursing tips, resources for PWAs and their families.

According to the Program coordinator, Shirley L., the 500 edition booklet will be placed with social and health agencies and with various physicians. It will be available to PWAs and their families.

###

In cooperation with MCC members, the Buddy Program volunteers wrote four additional grant applications. These were for the Chicago Resources Grant, the National Council of Mayors Grant and the Robert Wood Johnson Grant, each carrying a \$10 thousand stipend. The fourth grant with a \$5 thousand award is the March on Washington Grant.

COMING OUT ?

Coming out? You bet! October 11 of this year has been set aside as a National Coming Out Day on which organizers hope that hundreds of thousands of gay/lesbian people will join together in declaring their orientation and demanding their rights.

The idea of a Coming Out Day has been kicked around for years, according to the June issue of The Advocate, but it was not until February 1988 at the "War Conference" held in Warrenton, VA, did gay leaders pledge to support the event.

Jean O'Leary, executive director of the National Gay Rights Advocate, and The Week-end Experience's founder, Rob Eichenberg, are the originators of the movement and who are spearheading the national drive.

Eichenberg said, "I found the biggest resistance to having gay people...out of the closet is our own personal and internalized homophobia. It is not the world out there."

###

According to Shirley L. who spearheads the drive for resources, the Buddy Program is in desperate need of money and supplies. To meet the needs of PWAs the organization has to get as many resources together as possible.

"It does not look as if funding from private individuals and businesses is readily forthcoming," she said. "PWAs need help now. They can not wait a year or two years for a business or an individual to decide to donate money or other resources. They need help now."

###

Church To Meet June

The Congregational meeting will be held the third Sunday in June after the evening services. Two persons will be elected to the Board. Also, plans for the direction of the Church and future activities will be discussed.

Thirty-eight people are now members of the Church. In 1987 a high of 46 members was reached; however, people moving from the area and asking that memberships be transferred and two deaths among the members reduced the high.

One of the goals the Congregation needs to adopt is to increase the membership to equal or to pass the 1987 high. Current night services have 30 to 40 person attending. Many of these people will soon be members but each present member should try to bring at least one new person into the Church. The Congregation has much to offer new people. Fellowship, love, security can be found with Church association. These are things that almost all people seek.

###

Summer RAP Schedule

The MCC RAP SESSIONS will continue through the month of June with each session devoted to the theme of Gay Liberation. Rap sessions will be:

- June 1....Homophobia
- June 8....Oppression Sickness
- June 15....Lateral Oppression
- June 22....Activism
- June 29....Liberation

The last session marks the middle of Gay Pride Week. Sessions begin at 7:30 p.m. all 476-9142 for locations and other information.

###

HIV Group To Form

A new group for HIV-Pos persons will begin meeting in June. Many individuals in the Mobile Area have expressed an interest in the development of such a support group.

Confidentiality will be insured. The support group will deal with topics related to the HIV-Pos person's physical, social and psychological well-being.

Initially, a facilitator will lead the group but the members will be expected to select the group's format and to select the topics for discussion.

For locations and meeting times, contact Joe Smith at 344-5684 or call 476-9142.

###

Building Robbed

During the last week of May, the Buddy Program Building on Center Street was broken into. A micro-wave oven and the television set as well as supplies from the food pantry were stolen.

According to one source from MCC, the break-in is a serious set-back for the group efforts to help people. Especially damaging is the loss of the foods that were stored for needy people. With the loss of the television set the use of video tapes for training and other purposes has been seriously hampered.

An appeal has been made for anyone who would donate a TV or/and a micro-wave oven as well as food supplies so that the Deacon's Pantry can be replenished.

###

Tennis Group Gives Funds

In March the Lyons Park Tennis Association, a group of black business and professional leaders, sponsored a tennis tournament that raised \$500 for the Mobile Buddy Program.

###

AIDS VIGIL HELD

3

Members of the MCC and their friends held a 50-hour vigil as a memorial for PWAs and persons who have died from the disease. The vigil was held from Friday evening, May 27th to Monday evening, May 30th with a candle-light ceremony in Bienville Square.

The highlight of the observance was the making of five panels for the AIDS Quilt, commemorating local people who have died. The Mobile area is, and will be, represented by six panels in the national quilt. Members and friends worked all night for two days to complete the panels that were dedicated on Sunday, May 29th.

Other highlights of the vigil were workshops, panel discussions and films concerning the epidemic that has touched so deeply the community.

According to one source additional panels will be made and sent to the Names Project, or the national quilt.

###

Movie Night To Revive

The MCC wants to revive MOVIE NIGHT. For several months the Friday night event was conducted successfully by Ron and Wayne as a fund raiser for the Church. In addition, the 7 p.m. gatherings were a social outlet for many persons in the community.

Anyone who would like to host the first Friday of each month event should contact the minister or one of the Church Board members. Usually, films with a gay or lesbian theme were shown.

A theme potluck dinner usually was served, but a simpler snack, such as hot dogs and popcorn, could suffice.

###

liberation

BUDDY PROGRAM NEWS

More volunteers are needed for the Mobile Buddy Program. Fifteen persons currently are enrolled as active Buddies or who are in training for the program. The Buddies can be male or female, gay or straight. At least 20 Buddies are needed for the program to work with PWAs.

Training sessions are held the third Monday of each month at the Buddy Program Building, 1600 Center St., at 7:30 p.m. Anyone who would like to volunteer is urged to contact Shirley L. at that address or to call 476-9142.

In June the session will deal with Listening Skills. The July topic will examine Case Management and the August topic will be on the problem of Sex Addiction.

###

A breakdown of AIDS cases for Mobile shows a peak in 1987 with 35 cases of AIDS reported. (The Department of Health compiled the statistics for the Mobile Area.):

1983	1	(1)	(Numbers in parenthesis indicate
1984	3	(3)	persons who have died.)
1985	7	(7)	
1986	4	(3)	
1987	35	(21)	
1988	20	(12)	

44 persons were Caucasian; 25 were black; one was Hispanic. 59 PWAs were male and 11 were female. The average age at the time of the diagnosis was 34.9 years for males and 31.9 years for females.

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Donna Dickson
Sales Manager

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DIGNITY

LAUGHS?GIGGLES!

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###

Do you like to lick them? Stamps that is. A prize-winning display of stamps depicting gay and lesbian personalities is on display at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto as part of TOPEX at STAMPEX 88. If you would like to find out more about collecting gay/lesbian stamps, contact G.L.H.S.C., care of Ed Genento, P.O. Box 3940, Hartford, CT 06103.

###

Top of the non-fiction reading charts for summer should be Randy Shilts, AND THE BAND PLAYED ON, a psycho-political-economic book on the evolution of the AIDS crisis on the American scene. (St. Martin's Press: \$27)

###

Since 1985 a number of works by Gertrude Stein have been reissued. A couple of the top books for summer reading would be EVERYBODY'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY (Random House: \$11.95), WALKS IN GERTRUDE STEIN'S PARIS (Gibbs M. Smith Inc.: \$11.95), WHAT IS REMEMBERED by Alice B. Toklas, Stein's longtime friend and lover (North Point Press: \$9.95)

MURDER IS MURDER IS MURDER by Samuel M. Steward is a good who-dun-it by one of her longtime friends. In this mystery, Stein and Toklas solve a murder that happens near their south of France chateau. (Alyson: \$6.95)

###

THE FANCY DANCER by Patricia Neil Warren, an excellent love story between a young priest and a hunky Indian ceremonial dancer. Takes place in Montana. (Plume/NAL: \$6.95)

###

A hot but educational video tape, TAO-YINN. The Chinese Art of Self Massage, that shows an ancient technique of manipulating energy centers to achieve stress-free relaxation. Two more video tapes that may be worth watching are THE MALE COUPLE and PARENTS COME OUT. The first tells how to live with a spouse through interviews with various couples and the second is a document of eight parent couples and their struggle to understand and to accept their gay and lesbian children. All of the above video tapes from Malibu Sales.

###

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A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN
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PEOPLE WITH AIDS

Stamp Out AIDS raises money through the sale of stamps similar to Easter Seals. Proceeds go to the MOBILE AIDS BUDDY PROGRAM to provide direct care, medication, food and other vital services to

people living with AIDS.
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OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS.....
GIVE TODAY TO STAMP OUT AIDS. GIVE NOW.

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Mobile, AL 36660

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stamps at \$1 per set of 6. Enclosed please find
\$ _____, plus a self-addressed
stamped envelope.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

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If paying by check, make payable to:
"STAMP OUT AIDS"

Contributions are tax deductible as provided by law

....BU: AN AIDS BUDDY TEE SHIRT...NOW....

See Chip, Mobile Buddy Program
Team leader,

SUPPORT YOUR FRIENDS AND CHILDREN WITH AN
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.....DO IT TODAY.....

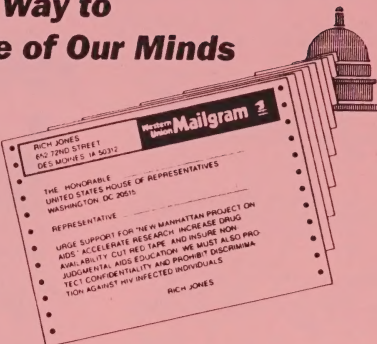
7

Finally, Here's an Easy Way to Give 'em a Piece of Our Minds

The Fairness Fund's Public Opinion Mailgram campaign now gives us an easy way to make our voices heard on Capitol Hill on the issues we care about. A POM is a 50-word mailgram that costs just \$4.50 each (the same 50-word message would cost almost 3 times as much outside this system). They are charged to your telephone bill. You don't even have to know who your legislator is—that'll be taken care of for you.

Too often, there just doesn't seem like there's time to write a letter. And sometimes you're just not sure what to say or when to write. Now, by signing one of our Public Opinion Mailgram authorization forms, or by calling the 800 number we have established, you can ensure that your voice will be heard in a timely, articulate fashion.

And, because the Fairness Fund works in close cooperation and with the support of the Human Rights Campaign Fund and other national gay/lesbian groups, your mailgram will reflect



our community's current lobbying strategy and priorities.

Won't you take just a minute, right now, to make a difference. Let's prove that we really *do* care.

The National Mailgram Campaign

Public Opinion Mailgram Authorization for Fairness and Privacy

Excess print:

Last Name: First Name _____ Telephone Number _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I support fairness and privacy for lesbians and gay men and adequate AIDS funding and therefore authorize the Fairness Fund to use my name to send _____ (2-12 or unlimited) Public Opinion Mailgrams (50 words) during the next year at a cost of just \$4.50 each. (The mailgrams will be charged to the phone number authorized, CANCEL AT ANY TIME.) The mailgrams will be sent to elected officials (at all levels) at critical times on the general categories of increased AIDS funding, defeat of AIDS hysteria measures, and support for justice for gay men and lesbians.

Signature _____

The Fairness Fund, PO Box 1723 Washington, DC 20013

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JUNE 28, 1970

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with 10,000 faces
bearing witness
to our own existence
in sunlight
from Washington Maryland
Massachusetts Pennsylvania
Connecticut Ohio
Iowa Minnesota
from Harlem and the suburbs
the universities
and the world
we are women who love women
we are men who love men
we are lesbians and homosexuals
we cannot apologize
for knowing
what others refuse to know
for affirming
what they deny
we might have been
the women and men
who watched us and waved
and made fists
and gave us victory signs
and stood there after we had passed
thinking of all they had to lose
and of how society punishes
its victims
who are all of us
in the end
but we are sisters and sisters
brother and brother
workers and lovers
we are together
we are marching
past the crumbling old world
that leans toward us
in anguish from the pavement
our banners are sails
pulling us through the streets
where we have always been
as ghosts
now we are shouting out own words
we are a community

we are a society
we are everyone
we are inside you
remember
all you were taught to forget
we are part of the new world
photographers
grim behind precise machines
wait to record
our blood and sorrow
and revolutionaries beside them
remark
love is not political
when we stand against our pain
they say
we are not standing against anything
when we demand our total lives
they wonder
what we are demanding
cant you lie
cant you lie
they whisper as they hiss
like fire in grass
cant you lie
and get on with the real work
our line winds
into Central Park
and doubles itself
in a snakelance
to the top of a hill
we cover the Sheep Meadow
shouting
lifting our arms
we are marching into ourselves
like a body
gathering its cells
creating itself
in sunlight
we turn to look back
on the thousands behind us
it seems we will converge
until we explode
sisters and sisters
brothers and brothers
together --Fran Winant

(From OUT OF THE CLOSET
Voices of Gay Liberation)

Coming
Out

GAY

Aids Grant Given

In May, the Metropolitan Community Church received a \$2500 grant from the State Department of Health to assist in the publication of a Buddy Program booklet for PWAs and for others involved with the fight against the AIDS crisis. The 60-plus page booklet will deal with the social-psychological issues of AIDS.

An October publication date has been set. Sections in the booklet will deal with stress management, nutrition, prevention, home nursing tips, resources for PWAs and their families.

According to the Program coordinator, Shirley L., the 500 edition booklet will be placed with social and health agencies and with various physicians. It will be available to PWAs and their families.

###

In cooperation with MCC members, the Buddy Program volunteers wrote four additional grant applications. These were for the Chicago Resources Grant, the National Council of Mayors Grant and the Robert Wood Johnson Grant, each carrying a \$10 thousand stipend. The fourth grant with a \$5 thousand award is the March on Washington Grant.

COMING OUT ?

Coming out? You bet! October 11 of this year has been set aside as a National Coming Out Day on which organizers hope that hundreds of thousands of gay/lesbian people will join together in declaring their orientation and demanding their rights.

The idea of a Coming Out Day has been kicked around for years, according to the June issue of The Advocate, but it was not until February 1988 at the "War Conference" held in Warrenton, VA, did gay leaders pledge to support the event.

Jean O'Leary, executive director of the National Gay Rights Advocate, and The Weekend Experience's founder, Rob Eichenberg, are the originators of the movement and who are spearheading the national drive.

Eichenberg said, "I found the biggest resistance to having gay people...out of the closet is our own personal and internalized homophobia. It is not the world out there."

###

According to Shirley L. who spearheads the drive for resources, the Buddy Program is in desperate need of money and supplies. To meet the needs of PWAs the organization has to get as many resources together as possible.

"It does not look as if funding from private individuals and businesses is readily forthcoming," she said. "PWAs need help now. They can not wait a year or two years for a business or an individual to decide to donate money or other resources. They need help now."

###

Church To Meet June

The Congregational meeting will be held the third Sunday in June after the evening services. Two persons will be elected to the Board. Also, plans for the direction of the Church and future activities will be discussed.

Thirty-eight people are now members of the Church. In 1987 a high of 46 members was reached; however, people moving from the area and asking that memberships be transferred and two deaths among the members reduced the high.

One of the goals the Congregation needs to adopt is to increase the membership to equal or to pass the 1987 high. Current night services have 30 to 40 person attending. Many of these people will soon be members but each present member should try to bring at least one new person into the Church. The Congregation has much to offer new people Fellowship, love, security can be found with Church association. These are things that almost all people seek.

###

Summer RAP Schedule

The MCC RAP SESSIONS will continue through the month of June with each session devoted to the theme of Gay Liberation. Rap sessions will be:

- June 1...Homophobia
- June 8...Oppression Sickness
- June 15...Lateral Oppression
- June 22...Activism
- June 29...Liberation

The last session marks the middle of Gay Pride Week. Sessions begin at 7:30 p.m. Call 476-9142 for locations and other information

###

HIV Group To Form

A new group for HIV-Pos persons will begin meeting in June. Many individuals in the Mobile Area have expressed an interest in the development of such a support group.

Confidentiality will be insured. The support group will deal with topics related to the HIV-Pos person's physical, social and psychological well-being.

Initially, a facilitator will lead the group but the members will be expected to select the group's format and to select the topics for discussion.

For locations and meeting times, contact Joe Smith at 344-5684 or call 476-9142.

###

Building Robbed

During the last week of May, the Buddy Program Building on Center Street was broken into. A micro-wave oven and the television set as well as supplies from the food pantry were stolen.

According to one source from MCC, the break-in is a serious set-back for the group efforts to help people. Especially damaging is the loss of the foods that were stored for needy people. With the loss of the television set the use of video tapes for training and other purposes has been seriously hampered.

An appeal has been made for anyone who would donate a TV or/and a micro-wave oven as well as food supplies so that the Deacon's Pantry can be replenished.

###

Tennis Group Gives Funds

In March the Lyons Park Tennis Association, a group of black business and professional leaders, sponsored a tennis tournament that raised \$500 for the Mobile Buddy Program.

###

AIDS VIGIL HELD

3

Members of the MCC and their friends held a 50-hour vigil as a memorial for PWAs and persons who have died from the disease. The vigil was held from Friday evening, May 27th to Monday evening, May 30th with a candle-light ceremony in Bienville Square.

The highlight of the observance was the making of five panels for the AIDS Quilt, commemorating local people who have died. The Mobile area is, and will be, represented by six panels in the national quilt. Members and friends worked all night for two days to complete the panels that were dedicated on Sunday, May 29th.

Other highlights of the vigil were workshops, panel discussions and films concerning the epidemic that has touched so deeply the community.

According to one source additional panels will be made and sent to the Names Project, or the national quilt.

###

Movie Night To Revive

The MCC wants to revive MOVIE NIGHT. For several months the Friday night event was conducted successfully by Ron and Wayne as a fund raiser for the Church. In addition, the 7 p.m. gatherings were a social outlet for many persons in the community.

Anyone who would like to host the first Friday of each month event should contact the minister or one of the Church Board members. Usually, films with a gay or lesbian theme were shown.

A theme potluck dinner usually was served, but a simpler snack, such as hot dogs and popcorn, could suffice.

###

liberation

BUDDY PROGRAM NEWS

More volunteers are needed for the Mobile Buddy Program. Fifteen persons currently are enrolled as active Buddies or who are in training for the program. The Buddies can be male or female, gay or straight. At least 20 Buddies are needed for the program to work with PWAs.

Training sessions are held the third Monday of each month at the Buddy Program Building, 1600 Center St., at 7:30 p.m. Anyone who would like to volunteer is urged to contact Shirley L. at that address or to call 476-9142.

In June the session will deal with Listening Skills. The July topic will examine Case Management and the August topic will be on the problem of Sex Addiction.

###

A breakdown of AIDS cases for Mobile shows a peak in 1987 with 35 cases of AIDS reported. (The Department of Health compiled the statistics for the Mobile Area.):

1983	1	(1)	(Numbers in parenthesis indicate
1984	3	(3)	persons who have died.)
1985	7	(7)	
1986	4	(3)	
1987	35	(21)	
1988	20	(12)	

44 persons were Caucasian; 25 were black; one was Hispanic. 59 PWAs were male and 11 were female. The average age at the time of the diagnosis was 34.9 years for males and 31.9 years for females.

The records show the risk factors as homosexual or bi--42, homosexual or IV drug user--11, IV drug user--11, blood transfers--3, heterosexual contacts--4, and undetermined--1.

###

The global total of AIDS cases recorded by the World Health Organization stood at 91,905 as of the end of May, a 4.4 percent increase during the past two weeks. Most countries have not yet updated their figures this year. The total includes 38,211 cases registered last year and covers reports from 139 countries listing one or more cases. Another 35 countries informed the Geneva-based organization that they had no cases. On April 27 the total had been 88,801 with the U.S., Brazil, Spain and Canada being the countries topping the list. (From This Week's News)

###

According to an article in the Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel during a meeting of the Ministerial Fellowship of the Palm Beach area a taped speech was played that advocated the theological position that the disease (AIDS) is not "God's punishment for the homosexual lifestyle." The tape provoked a discussion about whether people are born gay, with some ministers arguing that homosexuality is a choice and a form of sinfulness.

Rev. Tom Bigelow of the Metropolitan Community Church of West Palm Beach, argued against interpreting the Bible as condemning gay people. In response to St. Paul's condemnation of effeminate men and "abusers of self with mankind", Bigelow said: "I am a homosexual and a Christian. The word 'effeminate' in Greek means soft. That could mean morally soft. Abusers of self with mankind is a term that stands for male prostitutes." Bigelow's defense of gay Christians was echoed by a Methodist minister who found the use of St. Paul's words to condemn gay people 'offensive' You can't categorize people into who is going to hell and who isn't. I don't buy into an absolute."

The story is noteworthy for bringing to light the fact that many Christian ministers don't buy into the Pat Robertson/Pope John Paul II line on the sinfulness of homosexuality. The fact that a minister of MCC is a member of the Ministerial fellowship and was able to make the argument on behalf of gay religious people should open some people's eyes concerning the common myths and stereotypes about gay people.

###

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AIDS UPDATES

The controversial drug for AIDS treatment, Ribavirin, has been approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration for a multicenter trial to test the drug's safety and efficacy at high dosages. The FDA action came after the National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA) filed suit against the FDA accusing the federal agency of foot-dragging on promising to research into AIDS treatments. (From This Week's News)

###

The University of South Florida researchers are finding that marijuana may have dramatically harmful effects on the body's immune system and may be a co-factor in the development of AIDS.

According to This Week's News, Dr. Herman Friedman, professor and chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at USF, said that when purified THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol)--the main psychoactive component of marijuana--is added to any of their models systems in the cells of mice, the immune response system of the mice becomes suppressed. Friedman said that it is this breakdown of the immune system that makes AIDS so deadly.

###

Alcohol may increase the dangers of unsafe sex, noted a study by Dr. Ormar Bagasra, a microbiobiologist-immunologist at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. The study suggests moderate drinking may speed the development of full-blown AIDS in people already infected but have no symptoms of the disease. Other scientists have suggested that drugs and alcohol may be co-factors required for HIV infection to occur. Bagasra and his colleagues tested disease-fighting white blood cells that were grown with the HIV in laboratory glassware after being taken from the blood of six healthy heterosexual volunteers. The volunteers' blood cells were tested after they drank the equivalent of four to five beers each. They were asked to drink so that they did not get drunk. After drinking the virus grew 25 to 250 times more quickly in the blood cells and each cell contained more of the virus. Three to seven hours after the volunteers had no alcohol left in their bodies, their cells still produced small amounts of interleukin-2 and soluble immune suppressor factor, two substances necessary for proper functioning of the disease-fighting immune system.

###

A recently published pamphlet called "AIDS's Effects on the Brain" gives information to caregivers and family members who have PWAs with ADC (AIDS Dementia Complex). The pamphlet which was developed by the San

More than 6,000 researchers and scientists from around the globe are expected to convene in Stockholm this month for the fourth and largest-ever international conference on AIDS.

The conference will run from June 12-16 and will include some 50 specialty workshops with emphasis on problems in developing countries. Approximately 4,000 papers will be delivered at the conference.

"After reviewing the presentations, my overall impression is a feeling of optimism," said conference Chairman Lars Olof Kallings. "It is now justified to say there is global mobilization of biomedical and social science to fight against HIV infections."

Kallings said that the most gratifying results are being achieved in the area of molecular biology.

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###

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If paying by check, make payable to:
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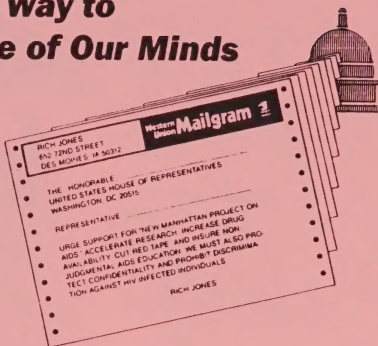
7

Finally, Here's an Easy Way to Give 'em a Piece of Our Minds

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Too often, there just doesn't seem like there's time to write a letter. And sometimes you're just not sure what to say or when to write. Now, by signing one of our Public Opinion Mailgram authorization forms, or by calling the 800 number we have established, you can ensure that your voice will be heard in a timely, articulate fashion.

And, because the Fairness Fund works in close cooperation and with the support of the Human Rights Campaign Fund and other national gay/lesbian groups, your mailgram will reflect



our community's current lobbying strategy and priorities.

Won't you take just a minute, right now, to make a difference. Let's prove that we really do care.

The National Mailgram Campaign

Public Opinion Mailgram Authorization for Fairness and Privacy

(Please print)

Last Name, First Name

Telephone Number

Address

City

State

Zip

I support fairness and privacy for lesbians and gay men and adequate AIDS funding and therefore authorize the Fairness Fund to use my name to send _____ (2-12 or unlimited) Public Opinion Mailgrams (50 words) during the next year at a cost of just \$4.50 each. (The mailgrams will be charged to the phone number authorized. CANCEL AT ANY TIME.) The mailgrams will be sent to elected officials (at all levels) at critical times on the general categories of increased AIDS funding, defeat of AIDS hysteria measures, and support for justice for gay men and lesbians.

Signature

The Fairness Fund, PO Box 1723, Washington, DC 20013

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Oper. 9184 to send

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###

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Connecticut Ohio
Iowa Minnesota
from Harlem and the suburbs
the universities
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we are women who love women
we are men who love men
we are lesbians and homosexuals
we cannot apologize
for knowing
what others refuse to know
for affirming
what they deny
we might have been
the women and men
who watched us and waved
and made fists
and gave us victory signs
and stood there after we had passed
thinking of all they had to lose
and of how society punishes
its victims
who are all of us
in the end
but we are sisters and sisters
brother and brother
workers and lovers
we are together
we are marching
past the crumbling old world
that leans toward us
in anguish from the pavement
our banners are sails
pulling us through the streets
where we have always been
as ghosts
now we are shouting out own words
we are a community

P
R
I
D
E

we are a society
we are everyone
we are inside you
remember
all you were taught to forget
we are part of the new world
photographers
grim behind precise machines
wait to record
our blood and sorrow
and revolutionaries beside them
remark
love is not political
when we stand against our pain
they say
we are not standing against anything
when we demand our total lives
they wonder
what we are demanding
cant you lie
cant you lie
they whisper as they hiss
like fire in grass
cant you lie
and get on with the real work
our line winds
into Central Park
and doubles itself
in a snakedance
to the top of a hill
we cover the Sheep Meadow
shouting
lifting our arms
we are marching into ourselves
like a body
gathering its cells
creating itself
in sunlight
we turn to look back
on the thousands behind us
it seems we will converge
until we explode
sisters and sisters
brothers and brothers
together --Fran Winant

(From OUT OF THE CLOSET
Voices of Gay Liberation)

MCC-MOBILE AIDS BUDDY PROGRAM
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(205) 476-8142

summer '88

Coming
Out

GAY

ds Grant Given

In May, the Metropolitan Community Church received a \$2500 grant from the State Department of Health to assist in the publication of a Buddy Program booklet for PWAs and for others involved with the fight against the AIDS crisis. The 60-plus page booklet will deal with the social-psychological issues of AIDS.

An October publication date has been set. Sections in the booklet will deal with stress management, nutrition, prevention, home nursing tips, resources for PWAs and their families.

According to the Program coordinator, Shirley L., the 500 edition booklet will be placed with social and health agencies and with various physicians. It will be available to PWAs and their families.

###

In cooperation with MCC members, the Buddy Program volunteers wrote four additional grant applications. These were for the Chicago Resources Grant, the National Council of Mayors Grant and the Robert Wood Johnson Grant, each carrying a \$10 thousand stipend. The fourth grant with a \$5 thousand award is the March on Washington Grant.

COMING OUT ?

Coming out? You bet! October 11 of this year has been set aside as a National Coming Out Day on which organizers hope that hundreds of thousands of gay/lesbian people will join together in declaring their orientation and demanding their rights.

The idea of a Coming Out Day has been kicked around for years, according to the June issue of The Advocate, but it was not until February 1988 at the "War Conference" held in Warrenton, VA, did gay leaders pledge to support the event.

Jean O'Leary, executive director of the National Gay Rights Advocate, and The Weekend Experience's founder, Rob Eichenberg, are the originators of the movement and who are spearheading the national drive.

Eichenberg said, "I found the biggest resistance to having gay people...out of the closet is our own personal and internalized homophobia. It is not the world out there."

###

According to Shirley L. who spearheads the drive for resources, the Buddy Program is in desperate need of money and supplies. To meet the needs of PWAs the organization has to get as many resources together as possible.

"It does not look as if funding from private individuals and businesses is readily forthcoming," she said. "PWAs need help now. They can not wait a year or two years for a business or an individual to decide to donate money or other resources. They need help now."

###

Church To Meet June

The Congregational meeting will be held the third Sunday in June after the evening services. Two persons will be elected to the Board. Also, plans for the direction of the Church and future activities will be discussed.

Thirty-eight people are now members of the Church. In 1987 a high of 46 members was reached; however, people moving from the area and asking that memberships be transferred and two deaths among the members reduced the high.

One of the goals the Congregation needs to adopt is to increase the membership to equal or to pass the 1987 high. Current night services have 30 to 40 person attending. Many of these people will soon be members but each present member should try to bring at least one new person into the Church. The Congregation has much to offer new people Fellowship, love, security can be found with Church association. These are things that almost all people seek.

###

Summer RAP Schedule

The MCC RAP SESSIONS will continue through the month of June with each session devoted to the theme of Gay Liberation. Rap sessions will be:

- June 1...Homophobia
- June 8...Oppression Sickness
- June 15...Lateral Oppression
- June 22...Activism
- June 29...Liberation

The last session marks the middle of Gay Pride Week. Sessions begin at 7:30 p.m. Call 476-9142 for locations and other information.

###

HIV Group To Form

A new group for HIV-Pos persons will begin meeting in June. Many individuals in the Mobile Area have expressed an interest in the development of such a support group.

Confidentiality will be insured. The support group will deal with topics related to the HIV-Pos person's physical, social and psychological well-being.

Initially, a facilitator will lead the group but the members will be expected to select the group's format and to select the topics for discussion.

For locations and meeting times, contact Joe Smith at 344-5684 or call 476-9142.

###

Building Robbed

During the last week of May, the Buddy Program Building on Center Street was broken into. A micro-wave oven and the television set as well as supplies from the food pantry were stolen.

According to one source from MCC, the break-in is a serious set-back for the group efforts to help people. Especially damaging is the loss of the foods that were stored for needy people. With the loss of the television set the use of video tapes for training and other purposes has been seriously hampered.

An appeal has been made for anyone who would donate a TV or/and a micro-wave oven as well as food supplies so that the Deacon's Pantry can be replenished.

###

Tennis Group Gives Funds

In March the Lyons Park Tennis Association, a group of black business and professional leaders, sponsored a tennis tournament that raised \$500 for the Mobile Buddy Program.

###

AIDS VIGIL HELD

3

Members of the MCC and their friends held a 50-hour vigil as a memorial for PWAs and persons who have died from the disease. The vigil was held from Friday evening, May 27th to Monday evening, May 30th with a candle-light ceremony in Bienville Square.

The highlight of the observance was the making of five panels for the AIDS Quilt, commemorating local people who have died. The Mobile area is, and will be, represented by six panels in the national quilt. Members and friends worked all night for two days to complete the panels that were dedicated on Sunday, May 29th.

Other highlights of the vigil were workshops, panel discussions and films concerning the epidemic that has touched so deeply the community.

According to one source additional panels will be made and sent to the Names Project, or the national quilt.

###

Movie Night To Revive

The MCC wants to revive MOVIE NIGHT. For several months the Friday night event was conducted successfully by Ron and Wayne as a fund raiser for the Church. In addition, the 7 p.m. gatherings were a social outlet for many persons in the community.

Anyone who would like to host the first Friday of each month event should contact the minister or one of the Church Board members. Usually, films with a gay or lesbian theme were shown.

A theme potluck dinner usually was served, but a simpler snack, such as hot dogs and popcorn, could suffice.

###

liberation

BUDDY PROGRAM NEWS

More volunteers are needed for the Mobile Buddy Program. Fifteen persons currently are enrolled as active Buddies or who are in training for the program. The Buddies can be male or female, gay or straight. At least 20 Buddies are needed for the program to work with PWAs.

Training sessions are held the third Monday of each month at the Buddy Program Building, 1600 Center St., at 7:30 p.m. Anyone who would like to volunteer is urged to contact Shirley L. at that address or to call 476-9142.

In June the session will deal with Listening Skills. The July topic will examine Case Management and the August topic will be on the problem of Sex Addiction.

###

A breakdown of AIDS cases for Mobile shows a peak in 1987 with 35 cases of AIDS reported. (The Department of Health compiled the statistics for the Mobile Area.):

1983	1	(1)	(Numbers in parenthesis indicate
1984	3	(3)	persons who have died.)
1985	7	(7)	
1986	4	(3)	
1987	35	(21)	
1988	20	(12)	

44 persons were Caucasian; 25 were black; one was Hispanic. 59 PWAs were male and 11 were female. The average age at the time of the diagnosis was 34.9 years for males and 31.9 years for females.

The records show the risk factors as homosexual or bi--42, homosexual or IV drug user --11, IV drug user--11, blood transfers--3, heterosexual contacts--4, and undetermined--1.

###

The global total of AIDS cases recorded by the World Health Organization stood at 91,905 as of the end of May, a 4.4 percent increase during the past two weeks. Most countries have not yet updated their figures this year. The total includes 38,211 cases registered last year and covers reports from 139 countries listing one or more cases. Another 35 countries informed the Geneva-based organization that they had no cases. On April 27 the total had been 88,801 with the U.S., Brazil, Spain and Canada being the countries topping the list. (From This Week's News)

###

According to an article in the Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel during a meeting of the Ministerial Fellowship of the Palm Beach area a taped speech was played that advocated the theological position that the disease (AIDS) is not "God's punishment for the homosexual lifestyle." The tape provoked a discussion about whether people are born gay, with some ministers arguing that homosexuality is a choice and a form of sinfulness.

Rev. Tom Bigelow of the Metropolitan Community Church of West Palm Beach, argued against interpreting the Bible as condemning gay people. In response to St. Paul's condemnation of effeminate men and "abusers of self with mankind", Bigelow said: "I am a homosexual and a Christian. The word 'effeminate' in Greek means soft. That could mean morally soft. Abusers of self with mankind is a term that stands for male prostitutes." Bigelow's defense of gay Christians was echoed by a Methodist minister who found the use of St. Paul's words to condemn gay people 'offensive.' You can't categorize people into who is going to hell and who isn't. I don't buy into an absolute."

The story is noteworthy for bringing to light the fact that many Christian ministers don't buy into the Pat Robertson/Pope John Paul II line on the sinfulness of homosexuality. The fact that a minister of MCC is a member of the Ministerial fellowship and was able to make the argument on behalf of gay religious people should open some people's eyes concerning the common myths and stereotypes about gay people.

###

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AIDS UPDATES

The controversial drug for AIDS treatment, Ribavirin, has been approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration for a multicenter trial to test the drug's safety and efficacy at high dosages. The FDA action came after the National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA) filed suit against the FDA accusing the federal agency of foot-dragging on promising to research into AIDS treatments. (From This Week's News)

###

The University of South Florida researchers are finding that marijuana may have dramatically harmful effects on the body's immune system and may be a co-factor in the development of AIDS.

According to This Week's News, Dr. Herman Friedman, professor and chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at USF, said that when purified THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol)--the main psychoactive component of marijuana--is added to any of their models systems in the cells of mice, the immune response system of the mice becomes suppressed. Friedman said that it is this breakdown of the immune system that makes AIDS so deadly.

###

Alcohol may increase the dangers of unsafe sex, under a study by Dr. Ormar Bagasra, a microbiologist-immunologist at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. The study suggests moderate drinking may speed the development of full-blown AIDS in people already infected but have no symptoms of the disease. Other scientists have suggested that drugs and alcohol may be co-factors required for HIV infection to occur. Bagasra and his colleagues tested disease-fighting white blood cells that were grown with the HIV in laboratory glassware after being taken from the blood of six healthy heterosexual volunteers. The volunteers' blood cells were tested after they drank the equivalent of four to five beers each. They were asked to drink so that they did not get drunk. After drinking the virus grew 25 to 250 times more quickly in the blood cells and each cell contained more of the virus. Three to seven hours after the volunteers had no alcohol left in their bodies, their cells still produced small amounts of interleukin-2 and soluble immune suppressor factor, two substances necessary for proper functioning of the disease-fighting immune system.

###

A recently published pamphlet called "AIDS's Effects on the Brain" gives information to caregivers and family members who have PWAs with ADC (AIDS Dementia Complex). The pamphlet which was developed by the San

More than 6,000 researchers and scientists from around the globe are expected to convene in Stockholm this month for the fourth and largest-ever international conference on AIDS.

The conference will run from June 12-16 and will include some 50 specialty workshops with emphasis on problems in developing countries. Approximately 4,000 papers will be delivered at the conference.

"After reviewing the presentations, my overall impression is a feeling of optimism," said conference Chairman Lars Olof Kallings. "It is now justified to say there is global mobilization of biomedical and social science to fight against HIV infections."

Kallings said that the most gratifying results are being achieved in the area of molecular biology.

New York Native publisher Charles Ortlieb, longtime skeptic of HIV theories as a cause of AIDS, noted in an editorial that at this conference Dr. Robert Gallo, co-founder of HIV, will get to share data with Dr. Shyh-Ching Lo. Ortlieb noted that according to the Armed Forces Institute on Pathology, Lo has been working on a DNA virus which is unlike HIV, has been able to create AIDS-like illnesses in monkeys infected with the virus. Ortlieb charged that once Lo and Gallo are able to compare data, the standing beliefs about HIV being the causal agent of AIDS may be shaken, leading to world-wide publicity of HIV skepticism. (From This Week's News)

###

In the June issue of The Advocate's Helms Report, there is some positive news about the underground drug, DEXTRAN SULFATE. This drug, long used by the underground clinics, is obtained presently from Japan. In laboratory studies it has been found to prevent HIV from damaging T-cells, one of the targets of the virus in the human body. The drug, also, blocks infected T-cells from fusing with nearby infected cells, a process believed to be a primary way in which the viral infection destroys the immune system. Finally, a separate experiment with the drug showed that it prevented, also, particles of HIV from binding to a protein on the surface of T-cells. Researchers believe that the binding may be the first step in a healthy T-cell becoming infected.

###

Francisco AIDS Health Project attempts to show the caregivers that the person with ADC is not trying to make them angry or frustrated but the person is showing a desperate need for support.

The pamphlet outlines several ways to help the ADC person. This publication can be obtained through the AIDS Health Project, Box 9884, San Francisco, CA, 94143-0884 or call (415) 476-6430.

###

6 gay voices

Representatives from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Association of Gay and Democratic Clubs and the Human Rights Campaign Fund presented testimony on May 10 at the first open hearings of the Democratic Party Platform...called on the hearing to include gay and lesbian civil rights and AIDS issues in the party platform at the 1988 convention. It is noted that the 1984 platform did include those issues, and all of this year's Democratic candidates for the Presidency have expressed support of gay and lesbian civil rights. "Today, what is smart and what is right for Democrats is to write a platform that clearly shows what the Democratic party stands for," states NAGLDC Director Christine Riddiough.

"It is vital that such a platform state...that the Democratic party is the party for social justice for all Americans, the party committed to full civil and human rights for all Americans."

NGLTF lobbyist Judy Radecic called for the inclusion of party planks in four key areas: Civil Rights, Violence, Family Issues and AIDS. Copies of Radecic's testimony are available from NGLTF, 1517 U St. N.W., Washington D.C. 20009, and copies of Riddiough's testimony are available from NAGLDC, 114 15th St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002. Both NGLTF and HRCF staffers are scheduled to present testimony at the Republican Platform Committee hearings in June. (From This Week's News)

###

Pittsburgh leaders expect the city will see its own gay and lesbian rights bill signed into law in time for Gay and Lesbian Pride Week this June. Despite the death of Mayor Richard Caliguiri, who supported the bill, gay and lesbian local leaders feel that the bill will pass. At a recent council meeting on allegations of anti-gay police harassment, nine council members expressed support. The Council defeated a similar bill six years ago. Work on the current bill, which includes mandates for gay and lesbian sensitivity training for police agents and the collection of statistics for anti-gay crimes, began shortly after last October's March on Washington. (From the Philadelphia Gay News)

###

A commission of the United Church of Canada, the country's largest Protestant denomination, recommended accepting gays as ministers and permitting them to be married in the church. Also, it recommended accepting bisexuality and sexual activity outside of marriage as normal sexual practices. (From The Advocate)

###

Another country has headed towards recognizing gay/lesbian marriages---Denmark. More than half of that country's Parliament have co-sponsored a bill legalizing gay/lesbian marriages, assuring that the bill would pass by this summer. Foreign nationals could be married under the law provided that one of the partners is living in Denmark. (From The Advocate)

###

According to the Alabama Forum newspaper, gay and lesbian members of the Birmingham Unitarian-Universalists Church organized in March a chapter for the Birmingham area. The tenth retreat for gay and lesbian

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DIGNITY

LAUGHS?GIGGLES!

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If paying by check, make payable to:
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See Chip, Mobile Buddy Program
Team leader,

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AIDS BUDDY TEE SHIRT

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7

Finally, Here's an Easy Way to Give 'em a Piece of Our Minds

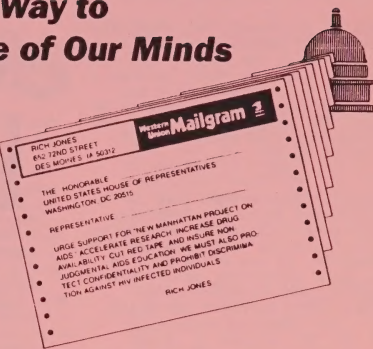
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Too often, there just doesn't seem like there's time to write a letter. And sometimes you're just not sure what to say or when to write. Now, by signing one of our Public Opinion Mailgram authorization forms, or by calling the 800 number we have established, you can ensure that your voice will be heard in a timely, articulate fashion.

And, because the Fairness Fund works in close cooperation and with the support of the Human Rights Campaign Fund and other national gay/lesbian groups, your mailgram will reflect

our community's current lobbying strategy and priorities.

Won't you take just a minute, right now, to make a difference. Let's prove that we really *do* care.



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I support fairness and privacy for lesbians and gay men and adequate AIDS funding and therefore authorize the Fairness Fund to use my name to send _____ (2-12 or unlimited) Public Opinion Mailgrams (50 words) during the next year at a cost of just \$4.50 each. (The mailgrams will be charged to the phone number authorized. CANCEL AT ANY TIME.) The mailgrams will be sent to elected officials (at all levels) at critical times on the general categories of: increased AIDS funding, defeat of AIDS hysteria measures, and support for justice for gay men and lesbians.

Signature

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AIDS Mailgrams or
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Sale by Owner: 3-bedroom cottage near Mobile Bay; Central H&A; Fireplace. Fenced backyard Appliances. Some hardwood interior. Quiet neighborhood with access to beach. Asking \$31,500. Owner may finance. Call Rick, 479-1941 or Chip, 432-5027.

Sale by Owner: 3 bedroom home near Municipal Park. Just remodeled. Large family room w/ stone fireplace; 5 ceiling fans and fenced backyard. \$41,000. Owner may finance. Call Chip, 432-5027

Personals:

Bud, I love you, Toots.

#Business card size \$10

1/4 page 15

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###

MCC
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pride

gay

liberation

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JUNE 28, 1970

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we're being photographed
by tourists police and leering men
we fill their cameras
with 10,000 faces
bearing witness
to our own existence
in sunlight
from Washington Maryland
Massachusetts Pennsylvania
Connecticut Ohio
Iowa Minnesota
from Harlem and the suburbs
the universities
and the world
we are women who love women
we are men who love men
we are lesbians and homosexuals
we cannot apologize
for knowing
what others refuse to know
for affirming
what they deny
we might have been
the women and men
who watched us and waved
and made fists
and gave us victory signs
and stood there after we had passed
thinking of all they had to lose
and of how society punishes
its victims
who are all of us
in the end
but we are sisters and sisters
brother and brother
workers and lovers
we are together
we are marching
past the crumbling old world
that leans toward us
in anguish from the pavement
our banners are sails
pulling us through the streets
where we have always been
as ghosts
now we are shouting out our words
we are a community

P
R
I
D
E

we are a society
we are everyone
we are inside you
remember
all you were taught to forget
we are part of the new world
photographers
grim behind precise machines
wait to record
our blood and sorrow
and revolutionaries beside them
remark
love is not political
when we stand against our pain
they say
we are not standing against anything
when we demand our total lives
they wonder
what we are demanding
cant you lie
cant you lie
they whisper as they hiss
like fire in grass
cant you lie
and get on with the real work
our line winds
into Central Park
and doubles itself
in a snakedance
to the top of a hill
we cover the Sheep Meadow
shouting
lifting our arms
we are marching into ourselves
like a body
gathering its cells
creating itself
in sunlight
we turn to look back
on the thousands behind us
it seems we will converge
until we explode
sisters and sisters
brothers and brothers
together --Fran Winant

(From OUT OF THE CLOSET
Voices of Gay Liberation)

Coming
Out

GAY

ds Grant Given

In May, the Metropolitan Community Church received a \$2500 grant from the State Department of Health to assist in the publication of a Buddy Program booklet for PWAs and for others involved with the fight against the AIDS crisis. The 60-plus page booklet will deal with the social-psychological issues of AIDS.

An October publication date has been set. Sections in the booklet will deal with stress management, nutrition, prevention, home nursing tips, resources for PWAs and their families.

According to the Program coordinator, Shirley L., the 500 edition booklet will be placed with social and health agencies and with various physicians. It will be available to PWAs and their families.

###

In cooperation with MCC members, the Buddy Program volunteers wrote four additional grant applications. These were for the Chicago Resources Grant, the National Council of Mayors Grant and the Robert Wood Johnson Grant, each carrying a \$10 thousand stipend. The fourth grant with a \$5 thousand award is the March on Washington Grant.

COMING OUT ?

Coming out? You bet! October 11 of this year has been set aside as a National Coming Out Day on which organizers hope that hundreds of thousands of gay/lesbian people will join together in declaring their orientation and demanding their rights.

The idea of a Coming Out Day has been kicked around for years, according to the June issue of The Advocate, but it was not until February 1988 at the "War Conference" held in Warrenton, VA, did gay leaders pledge to support the event.

Jean O'Leary, executive director of the National Gay Rights Advocate, and The Weekend Experience's founder, Rob Eichenberg, are the originators of the movement and who are spearheading the national drive.

Eichenberg said, "I found the biggest resistance to having gay people...out of the closet is our own personal and internalized homophobia. It is not the world out there."

###

According to Shirley L. who spearheads the drive for resources, the Buddy Program is in desperate need of money and supplies. To meet the needs of PWAs the organization has to get as many resources together as possible.

"It does not look as if funding from private individuals and businesses is readily forthcoming," she said. "PWAs need help now. They can not wait a year or two years for a business or an individual to decide to donate money or other resources. They need help now."

###

Church To Meet June

The Congregational meeting will be held the third Sunday in June after the evening services. Two persons will be elected to the Board. Also, plans for the direction of the Church and future activities will be discussed.

Thirty-eight people are now members of the Church. In 1987 a high of 46 members was reached; however, people moving from the area and asking that memberships be transferred and two deaths among the members reduced the high.

One of the goals the Congregation needs to adopt is to increase the membership to equal or to pass the 1987 high. Current night services have 30 to 40 person attending. Many of these people will soon be members but each present member should try to bring at least one new person into the Church. The Congregation has much to offer new people. Fellowship, love, security can be found with Church association. These are things that almost all people seek.

###

Summer RAP Schedule

The MCC RAP SESSIONS will continue through the month of June with each session devoted to the theme of Gay Liberation. Rap sessions will be:

- June 1....Homophobia
- June 8....Oppression Sickness
- June 15....Lateral Oppression
- June 22....Activism
- June 29....Liberation

The last session marks the middle of Gay Pride Week. Sessions begin at 7:30 p.m. Call 476-9142 for locations and other information.

###

HIV Group To Form

A new group for HIV-Pos persons will begin meeting in June. Many individuals in the Mobile Area have expressed an interest in the development of such a support group.

Confidentiality will be insured. The support group will deal with topics related to the HIV-Pos person's physical, social and psychological well-being.

Initially, a facilitator will lead the group but the members will be expected to select the group's format and to select the topics for discussion.

For locations and meeting times, contact Joe Smith at 344-5684 or call 476-9142.

###

Building Robbed

During the last week of May, the Buddy Program Building on Center Street was broken into. A micro-wave oven and the television set as well as supplies from the food pantry were stolen.

According to one source from MCC, the break-in is a serious set-back for the group efforts to help people. Especially damaging is the loss of the foods that were stored for needy people. With the loss of the television set the use of video tapes for training and other purposes has been seriously hampered.

An appeal has been made for anyone who would donate a TV or/and a micro-wave oven as well as food supplies so that the Deacon's Pantry can be replenished.

###

Tennis Group Gives Funds

In March the Lyons Park Tennis Association, a group of black business and professional leaders, sponsored a tennis tournament that raised \$500 for the Mobile Buddy Program.

###

AIDS VIGIL 3 HELD

Members of the MCC and their friends held a 50-hour vigil as a memorial for PWAs and persons who have died from the disease. The vigil was held from Friday evening, May 27th to Monday evening, May 30th with a candle-light ceremony in Bienville Square.

The highlight of the observance was the making of five panels for the AIDS Quilt, commemorating local people who have died. The Mobile area is, and will be, represented by six panels in the national quilt. Members and friends worked all night for two days to complete the panels that were dedicated on Sunday, May 29th.

Other highlights of the vigil were workshops, panel discussions and films concerning the epidemic that has touched so deeply the community.

According to one source additional panels will be made and sent to the Names Project, or the national quilt.

###

Movie Night To Revive

The MCC wants to revive MOVIE NIGHT. For several months the Friday night event was conducted successfully by Ron and Wayne as a fund raiser for the Church. In addition, the 7 p.m. gatherings were a social outlet for many persons in the community.

Anyone who would like to host the first Friday of each month event should contact the minister or one of the Church Board members. Usually, films with a gay or lesbian theme were shown.

A theme potluck dinner usually was served, but a simpler snack, such as hot dogs and popcorn, could suffice.

###

liberation

BUDDY PROGRAM NEWS

More volunteers are needed for the Mobile Buddy Program. Fifteen persons currently are enrolled as active Buddies or who are in training for the program. The Buddies can be male or female, gay or straight. At least 20 Buddies are needed for the program to work with PWAs.

Training sessions are held the third Monday of each month at the Buddy Program Building, 1600 Center St., at 7:30 p.m. Anyone who would like to volunteer is urged to contact Shirley L. at that address or to call 476-9142.

In June the session will deal with Listening Skills. The July topic will examine Case Management and the August topic will be on the problem of Sex Addiction.

###

A breakdown of AIDS cases for Mobile shows a peak in 1987 with 35 cases of AIDS reported. (The Department of Health compiled the statistics for the Mobile Area.):

1983	1	(1)	(Numbers in parenthesis indicate
1984	3	(3)	persons who have died.)
1985	7	(7)	
1986	4	(3)	
1987	35	(21)	
1988	20	(12)	

44 persons were Caucasian; 25 were black; one was Hispanic. 59 PWAs were male and 11 were female. The average age at the time of the diagnosis was 34.9 years for males and 31.9 years for females.

The records show the risk factors as homosexual or bi--42, homosexual or IV drug user --11, IV drug user--11, blood transfers--3, heterosexual contacts--4, and undetermined--1.

###

The global total of AIDS cases recorded by the World Health Organization stood at 91,905 as of the end of May, a 4.4 percent increase during the past two weeks. Most countries have not yet updated their figures this year. The total includes 38,211 cases registered last year and covers reports from 139 countries listing one or more cases. Another 35 countries informed the Geneva-based organization that they had no cases. On April 27 the total had been 88,801 with the U.S., Brazil, Spain and Canada being the countries topping the list. (From This Week's News)

###

According to an article in the Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel during a meeting of the Ministerial Fellowship of the Palm Beach area a taped speech was played that advocated the theological position that the disease (AIDS) is not "God's punishment for the homosexual lifestyle." The tape provoked a discussion about whether people are born gay, with some ministers arguing that homosexuality is a choice and a form of sinfulness.

Rev. Tom Bigelow of the Metropolitan Community Church of West Palm Beach, argued against interpreting the Bible as condemning gay people. In response to St. Paul's condemnation of effeminate men and "abusers of self with mankind", Bigelow said: "I am a homosexual and a Christian. The word 'effeminate' in Greek means soft. That could mean morally soft. Abusers of self with mankind is a term that stands for male prostitutes." Bigelow's defense of gay Christians was echoed by a Methodist minister who found the use of St. Paul's words to condemn gay people 'offensive.' You can't categorize people into who is going to hell and who isn't. I don't buy into an absolute."

The story is noteworthy for bringing to light the fact that many Christian ministers don't buy into the Pat Robertson/Pope John Paul II line on the sinfulness of homosexuality. The fact that a minister of MCC is a member of the Ministerial fellowship and was able to make the argument on behalf of gay religious people should open some people's eyes concerning the common myths and stereotypes about gay people.

###

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AIDS UPDATES

The controversial drug for AIDS treatment, Ribavirin, has been approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration for a multicenter trial to test the drug's safety and efficacy at high dosages. The FDA action came after the National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA) filed suit against the FDA accusing the federal agency of foot-dragging on promising to research into AIDS treatments. (From This Week's News)

###

The University of South Florida researchers are finding that marijuana may have dramatically harmful effects on the body's immune system and may be a co-factor in the development of AIDS.

According to This Week's News, Dr. Herman Friedman, professor and chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at USF, said that when purified THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol)--the main psychoactive component of marijuana--is added to any of their models systems in the cells of mice, the immune response system of the mice becomes suppressed. Friedman said that it is this breakdown of the immune system that makes AIDS so deadly.

###

Alcohol may increase the dangers of unsafe sex, noted a study by Dr. Ormar Bagasra, a microbiobiologist-immunologist at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. The study suggests moderate drinking may speed the development of full-blown AIDS in people already infected but have no symptoms of the disease. Other scientists have suggested that drugs and alcohol may be co-factors required for HIV infection to occur. Bagasra and his colleagues tested disease-fighting white blood cells that were grown with the HIV in laboratory glassware after being taken from the blood of six healthy heterosexual volunteers. The volunteers' blood cells were tested after they drank the equivalent of four to five beers each. They were asked to drink so that they did not get drunk. After drinking the virus grew 25 to 250 times more quickly in the blood cells and each cell contained more of the virus. Three to seven hours after the volunteers had no alcohol left in their bodies, their cells still produced small amounts of interleukin-2 and soluble immune suppressor factor, two substances necessary for proper functioning of the disease-fighting immune system.

###

A recently published pamphlet called "AIDS's Effects on the Brain" gives information to caregivers and family members who have PWAs with ADC (AIDS Dementia Complex). The pamphlet which was developed by the San

Francisco AIDS Health Project and scientists from around the globe are expected to convene in Stockholm this month for the fourth and largest-ever international conference on AIDS.

The conference will run from June 12-16 and will include some 50 specialty workshops with emphasis on problems in developing countries. Approximately 4,000 papers will be delivered at the conference.

"After reviewing the presentations, my overall impression is a feeling of optimism," said conference Chairman Lars Olof Kallings. "It is now justified to say there is global mobilization of biomedical and social science to fight against HIV infections."

Kallings said that the most gratifying results are being achieved in the area of molecular biology.

New York Native publisher Charles Ortlieb, longtime skeptic of HIV theories as a cause of AIDS, noted in an editorial that at this conference Dr. Robert Gallo, co-founder of HIV, will get to share data with Dr. Shyh-Ching Lo. Ortlieb noted that according to the Armed Forces Institute on Pathology, Lo has been working on a DNA virus which is unlike HIV, has been able to create AIDS-like illnesses in monkeys infected with the virus. Ortlieb charged that once Lo and Gallo are able to compare data, the standing beliefs about HIV being the causal agent of AIDS may be shaken, leading to world-wide publicity of HIV skepticism. (From This Week's News)

###

In the June issue of The Advocate's Helms Report, there is some positive news about the underground drug, DEXTRAN SULFATE. This drug, long used by the underground clinics, is obtained presently from Japan. In laboratory studies it has been found to prevent HIV from damaging T-cells, one of the targets of the virus in the human body. The drug, also, blocks infected T-cells from fusing with nearby infected cells, a process believed to be a primary way in which the viral infection destroys the immune system. Finally, a separate experiment with the drug showed that it prevented, also, particles of HIV from binding to a protein on the surface of T-cells. Researchers believe that the binding may be the first step in a healthy T-cell becoming infected.

###

Francisco AIDS Health Project attempts to show the caregivers that the person with ADC is not trying to make them angry or frustrated but the person is showing a desperate need for support.

The pamphlet outlines several ways to help the ADC person. This publication can be obtained through the AIDS Health Project, Box 9884, San Francisco, CA, 94143-0884 or call (415) 476-6430.

###

6 gay voices

Representatives from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Association of Gay and Democratic Clubs and the Human Rights Campaign Fund presented testimony on May 10 at the first open hearings of the Democratic Party Platform...called on the hearing to include gay and lesbian civil rights and AIDS issues in the party platform at the 1988 convention. It is noted that the 1984 platform did include those issues, and all of this year's Democratic candidates for the Presidency have expressed support of gay and lesbian civil rights. "Today, what is smart and what is right for Democrats is to write a platform that clearly shows what the Democratic party stands for," states NAGLDC Director Christine Riddiough.

"It is vital that such a platform state...that the Democratic party is the party for social justice for all Americans, the party committed to full civil and human rights for all Americans."

NGLTF lobbyist Judy Radecic called for the inclusion of party planks in four key areas: Civil Rights, Violence, Family Issues and AIDS. Copies of Radecic's testimony are available from NGLTF, 1517 U St. N.W., Washington D.C. 20009, and copies of Riddiough's testimony are available from NAGLDC, 114 15th St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002. Both NGLTF and HRCF staffers are scheduled to present testimony at the Republican Platform Committee hearings in June. (From This Week's News)

###

Pittsburgh leaders expect the city will see its own gay and lesbian rights bill signed into law in time for Gay and Lesbian Pride Week this June. Despite the death of Mayor Richard Caliguiri, who supported the bill, gay and lesbian local leaders feel that the bill will pass. At a recent council meeting on allegations of anti-gay police harassment, nine council members expressed support. The Council defeated a similar bill six years ago. Work on the current bill, which includes mandates for gay and lesbian sensitivity training for police agents and the collection of statistics for anti-gay crimes, began shortly after last October's March on Washington. (From the Philadelphia Gay News)

###

A commission of the United Church of Canada, the country's largest Protestant denomination, recommended accepting gays as ministers and permitting them to be married in the church. Also, it recommended accepting bisexuality and sexual activity outside of marriage as normal sexual practices. (From The Advocate)

###

Another country has headed towards recognizing gay/lesbian marriages---Denmark. More than half of that country's Parliament have co-sponsored a bill legalizing gay/lesbian marriages, assuring that the bill would pass by this summer. Foreign nationals could be married under the law provided that one of the partners is living in Denmark. (From The Advocate)

###

According to the Alabama Forum newspaper, gay and lesbian members of the Birmingham Unitarian-Universalists Church organized in March a chapter for the Birmingham area. The tenth retreat for gay and lesbian

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DIGNITY

LAUGHS?GIGGLES!

The famed 1974 gay novel, **THE FRONT RUNNER**, by Patricia Neil Warren is slated to become a movie as soon as the company can settle on a director. The love story between a coach and his star track runner is a gay classic. Her second book to make inroads on the gay circuit, **THE FANCY DANCER**, has been reissued by Plume/NAL. The paperback was released in May at \$6.95.

###

Do you like to lick them? Stamps that is. A prize-winning display of stamps depicting gay and lesbian personalities is on display at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto as part of TOPEX at STAMPDEX 88. If you would like to find out more about collecting gay/lesbian stamps, contact G.L.H.S.C., care of Ed Cenento; P.O. Box 3940; Hartford, CT 06103.

###

Top of the non-fiction reading charts for summer should be Randy Shilts, **AND THE BAND PLAYED ON**, a psycho-political-economic book on the evolution of the AIDS crisis on the American scene. (St. Martin's Press: \$27)

###

Since 1985 a number of works by Gertrude Stein have been reissued. A couple of the top books for summer reading would be **EVERYBODY'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY** (Random House: \$11.95), **WALKS IN GERTRUDE STEIN'S PARIS** (Gibbs M. Smith Inc.: \$11.95), **WHAT IS REMEMBERED** by Alice B. Toklas, Stein's longtime friend and lover (North Point Press: \$9.95)

MURDER IS MURDER IS MURDER by Samuel M. Steward is a good who-dun-it by one of her longtime friends. In this mystery, Stein and Toklas solve a murder that happens near their south of France chateau. (Alyson: \$6.95)

###

THE FANCY DANCER by Patricia Neil Warren, an excellent love story between a young priest and a hunky Indian ceremonial dancer. Takes place in Montana. (Plume/NAL: \$6.95)

###

A hot but educational video tape, **TAO-YINN**. The Chinese Art of Self Massage, that shows an ancient technique of manipulating energy centers to achieve stress-free relaxation. Two more video tapes that may be worth watching are **THE MALE COUPLE** and **PARENTS COME OUT**. The first tells how to live with a spouse through interviews with various couples and the second is a document of eight parent couples and their struggle to understand and to accept their gay and lesbian children. All of the above video tapes from Malibu Sales.

###

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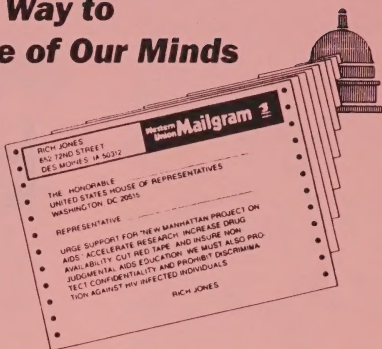
7

Finally, Here's an Easy Way to Give 'em a Piece of Our Minds

The Fairness Fund's Public Opinion Mailgram campaign now gives us an easy way to make our voices heard on Capitol Hill on the issues we care about. A POM is a 50-word mailgram that costs just \$4.50 each (the same 50-word message would cost almost 3 times as much outside this system). They are charged to your telephone bill. You don't even have to know who your legislator is—that'll be taken care of for you.

Too often, there just doesn't seem like there's time to write a letter. And sometimes you're just not sure what to say or when to write. Now, by signing one of our Public Opinion Mailgram authorization forms, or by calling the 800 number we have established, you can ensure that your voice will be heard in a timely, articulate fashion.

And, because the Fairness Fund works in close cooperation and with the support of the Human Rights Campaign Fund and other national gay/lesbian groups, your mailgram will reflect



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Signature

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Bud, I love you, Toots.

#Business card size \$10

1/4 page 15

1/2 page 25

Classified Adv. \$1 per line

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